

The second Part of
the famous History of the sea-
uen Champions of Christen-
dome.

Likevwise shewving the Princely provesse of
Saint Georges three Sonnes, the lively
Spark of Nobilitie.

*VVith many other memoriall achiuements
worthy the golden spurres of
Knighthood.*



LONDON,
Printed for Cutbert Burbie, and are to
be sold at his shop, vnder the
Royall Exchange
1597.

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1921



TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE
THE LORDE WILLIAM HOWARD,
Richard Johnson wisheth increase
of all prosperity.



Si it hath, Right Ho-
norale, of late plea-
sed your most noble
brother in kindenes
to accept of this hi-
story, and to grace
it with a fauourable
countenaunce. So
am I nowe emboldened to dedicate this se-
cond part vnto your honour, vvhich here I
humbly offer to your Lordships handes, not
because I thinke it a gift worthy the receauer
but rather that it should be, as it were a witness
of the loue and ducly vvhich I beare to your

The Epistle Dedicatore.

Right Noble House.

And when it shall please you to bestowe
the reading of these my rude Discourses, my
humble request is, that you would thinke I
I wish your Honor as many happy dayes, as
there be letters contayned in this Historie.

Thus praying for your Honors chiefe hap-
pynes, I end.

Your Honors in all dutifull loue

to his poore power. R. L.





To the Gentle Reader.

Hauē finished the seconde part of the seuen Champions of Christendome, onely for thy delight, being ther too incouraged by thy greate curtesie in the kinde acceptation of my first part. I haue no eloquent phrases to invite thy willingnes to read, onely a little barren inuention, wheroft I haue no cause to boast, so excellently the wits of many in these daies in that kinde exceed. Onely thy curtesie must be my Buckler, against the carping malice of mocking iesters, that being worst able to doe well, scoffe commonly at that they cannot mend, cen-suring all thinges, doing nothing, but (monkey like) make apish iests at any thinge they see in Print: and nothing pleaseth them, except it sauor of a scoffing or inuective spirite. Well, what those say of me I doe not care, thy delight onely is my desire: And accept it and I am satisfied, reiect it and this shall bee my penaunce never againe to come in Print. But hauing better hope, I boldly leade thee to this maine from this doubtfull floude of suspition where I rest. Walke on in the historie, as in an ouergrown & ill husbanded garden: if among all the weedes thou finde one plea-sing flower I haue my wish.

Thine Richard Johnson,

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Engholm 18. Februar 1777



The second part of the most honoura-
ble Historie of the seauen Champions of
Christendome.

How Sa. Georges three sonnes were enter-
tained into the famous Cittie of London, and
after how their Mother was slaine in a wood
with the prickes of a thornie brake, her bles-
sing she gaue her sonnes, S. Georges lamenta-
tion ouer her bleeding bodie: and likevvise of
the Iourney the seuen Champions intended
to Ierusalem to visit the Sepulcher of Christ.



For Saint George with
the other six Champions
of Christendome (by their
impeccable conquests) had
brought into subjection
the Gaderne Waerts; and
by dink of bloodye warres
quashed the stubborne
fiends entyn to the furthest
boundes of Iordan; where
the yolken soone begin-
meth to arise; as you heard
aforewardes in the former part of this Historie, they returned

The Second Part of

med with the counsells of Imperiall Dishes, regall crowns and kingry scepters to the rich and plentifull Country of England: where in the famous City of London they made a day scorne, a place not onely beautified with sumptuous buildings, but graced with a number of valiant knights and gallant Gentlemen of courtly behavour, and therewithal adorned with scropes of Ladies, of vaine and celestiall beauties, that trip it by and adorne the stretes like to the Grecian Queens, when as they tyed the Persian Warriors in the silken snare of love: whereby it seemed rather a paradice for heavenlye Angels, than a place for earthly inhabitants.

Here the Christian Champions laid their Armes aside, here hung they by their weapons on the bolders of peace, here their glistering coxets rusted in their Armo-
ries, here was not heard the warlike sound of swine nor
Silver trumpets, here stood no Centinells nor Courts of
guard, nor barbed steeves prepared to the battaile, but all
things tended to a lasting peace. They that had wont in
meled coates to sleep in champion fields, lay dall ging now
in bens of silke: they that had wont with warlike armes to
foule the boarlike fassions, set's now embaying lonely
Ladies on their knees: and they whose ears had wont to
heare the tristfull cryes of laughtred troubulles, were now
occupayd with musicles pleasant harmonie.

From this delitious manner lioun these Champions in the
city of London, burying the remembrance of all they
forsooke adventures in the lakes of obliuion, and trans-
ferring their times in honorabile scilifes and courtly ser-
vitudes: where as George performed manie accomaynts
in foyre of his beloued Ladies, & the other knyghtes who
wert in their company.

At last at full foyre George took his bosome, Guy, Al-
exander, and David all three left the bosome of the burch, as you
heard before in the intermeate, and sent into those few
small Kingdomes by their carfull Father to be traingid up
the

of the seven Champions.

the one into Rome to the warlike Romances, another into
Wittenberg to the learned Germanes, the third into Britaine to the valiant English. But now being growne to
some ripenes of age and agilitie of strength, they desire
much to visit their parents, whom they haue not seen from
their infancies lying in their cradles; and to crave at hys
hands the honor of true knighthood, and to weare the golde
den spurs of Christendome.

Sc.
This earnest & princely request so highly pleased they
Tutors, that they furnished them with a stately traine of
Knights, and sent them honourably into England, where
they arrived all thre at one tyme in the famous Cittie of
London, where their entertainments were most princely,
and their welcomes so honorable, that I want arte to
descrie and memorie to expresse.

I omit, what sumptuous Pageants and delightfull
showes the Cittizens prouided, and how the Streets of
London were beautified with tapestry, the solearie bels
that rung them ioyfull welcomes, and the siluer strained
instruments that gaue them pleasant entertainment. Al
so I passe over their fathers my, whoe pridid their sightes
more yacuous in his eyes, than if he had beene maner sole
monarch of the golden mynes of rich America: or that
euerie haire that gret upon his head haue beene equalled
with a kingdome, & he to aye as manie golden diademes
in his Armes. Also the mothers welcomes to her Sons,
who gaue them more iues than thee blessed soule
groanes at their deliveries from her painful womb in the
wildernesse.

The other Champions curteisies were not the lefft nor
of the smallest in account to these thre young Gentlemen:
but to be shew, Saint George (whose loue was deare unto
his Children) in his alone person conduced them unto
their lodgings, wheras they spent that day and the night
following in regall banqueting amonggill these Prince
ly friend.

The second Part of

But no fawre appeared the shewynge sunne vpon
the mountaine tops, and the cleare countenaunce of the
elements made motion of lame infusing pasme, but S.
George comandado a solempne Hunting for the wel-
come of the sunne.

Then breke his knyghts to armes themselfes in frays,
and to mount vpon their nimble jennets, and some with
well arm'd Woare speares in their handes, prepared so
the game on foote: but S. George with his Sonnes clad
in silke volumnents like Adonis, with siluer hornes han-
gynge at their baxtes in scarffes of coloured silke, were stil
the furmost in this Exercyse. Likewise Sabra (intending
to see her Sonnes valours displayed in the field, whether
they were in courage like their Father or no) caused a
gentle Walfray to be provided, to be thereon he mounted her
Princely Person by her selfe of these silviane spoyles:
she was arm'd with a curvynge brest-plate wrought like to
the scales of a dolphin, and in her hand she bare a siluer
bore of the sturke of a lymon, like an Amazonian Queen,
or Diana mountyng in the groves of Arcadic.

Then the same number rose forth these Hunters
to their princely pastimes, where after they had ridden
some furlough from the Cittie of London, fell from sea.
Georges knyghtes dropte of purple blood, wherat his so-
daiely burze, and therewithall he heard the croaking of
a Sirene or nymfe wauens, that howred by the Forrell
Bore, all hope to be imaged to be small signes of some in-
duting straungement: but haiming a princely minde he nothing
discouyred thereat, nor little mistrusted the wofull acci-
dence that shal happen, but with a noble resolution en-
dured the forrell, accounting such foretelling tokenes for
merchandise receyves, wherewithal he had not passid the
complayce of his knyghtes, that they bare a wylde swif-
te boar, and wylde boars uncomplayced wylde boars, and gave
bryde to their baxtes, and followed the game more swif-
ter than Pirates that pursue the Merchants vpon the
seas.

of the seuen Champions.

seen. But now behold how frowning Fortune chaunged their pleasant passimes to a sad and bloodie tragedie: for Sabra proffering to keepe pace with them, delighting to behold the valiant encounters of her yong sonnes, and be-
ing careles of her selfe thorough the ouer swiftnes of her
steede, shes flipped to her saddle, and so fell directly
vpon a thornie brake of brambles, the prickes whereof
more sharpe than spikes of Steele entered to euerie part of
her delicate bodie: some pierced the louely closets of her
Marre-bright eyes, whereby (in stead of christall pealed
teares) there issued drops of purest blood: her face before
that blushed like the mornings radiant countenance, was
now exchanged into a crimson red: her milk white hands
that lately straineid the yuozie Lute, did seeme to weare a
bloodis scarlet glove: and her tender paps that had so often
fed her Sonnes with the milke of nature, were all berent
and torn with these accursed brambles: from whose deep
wounds there issued such a streme of purple goze, that it
converted the grasse from a lively green to a crimson heau,
and the abundance of blood that trickled from her brest,
begane to infuse her soule to give the world a lastfull fare-
well. Yet notwithstanding, when her beloued Lord, her
sorrowfull Sonnes, and all the rest of the world Champions,
had washed her wounded bodie with a spring of
teares, and when she perceiued that she must of force com-
mit her life to the farte of imperious death, shes breathed
forth this dying Exhortation.

Deare Lord (said she) in this vnhappy Hynting must
you loose the truest waise that euer lay by Princes side:
yet mourne you not, nor greeue you my Sonnes, nor you
brave Christian Knights, but let your warlike brambers
conuay me royally vnto my Eoome, that all the world
maye write in brazen bookes, how I haue followed my
Lord (the pride of Christendomie) thorough many a blo-
die field, and for his sake haue left my Parents, frens,
and Countrey, and haue trauelled with him through m-

The second Part of

me a dangerous Kingdome : but now the cruell Fates
have brought their late spites, and finisched my life, be-
cause I am not able to performe what loue he hath deser-
ued of me. And now to you my sonnes, this blessing do
I leave behinde : even by the paines that fortie booke s I
once indured for yourakes, when as you are enclosed in
my membre, and by my travells in the wildernes, whereas
my groves upon your birth day did (in my thinking) cause
both trees and stones to drop dwowe teares, when as the
mercille ~~the~~ tigers & tameles ~~the~~ Lyons did stand like gen-
tles Lambes, and mournd to heare my lamentations : and
by a ~~the~~ other loun that ever since I have boorne you, imi-
tate & follow your Father in all his honorabile attempts,
harne not the silly Infant, nor the helpless ~~the~~ Widow, de-
fend the honour of distressed Ladies, and give freely unto
wounded ~~the~~ soldiers : lichts not to stain the unspotted vir-
gins with your lusts, and adventure euermore to redeme
true knyghts from captiuitie : lise ~~the~~ profest enemies
to pagantime, and spend your limes in the quarrel and de-
fence of Chynt, that Babes (as yet unboorne) in time to
come may speake of you, and record you in the bookes of
time to be true christian Champions. This is my bles-
sing, and this is the Testament I leave behinde : for now
I fele the colde ~~the~~ pale death closing the closets of my
eyes. Farewell baine world, deere Lord farewell, sweet
sonnes, you famous fellowes of my George, and all true
christian knyghts, adieu.

These words were no sooner ended, but with a heantic
gash she yelded by the ghoste: whereat saint George (be-
ing impatient in his sorowes) fell upon her limelesse bo-
die, rending his haire, and tearing his hanters at thyre
from his backe into a thousand pieces : and at last when
his grieses somewhat diminished, he fell into these bitter
lamentations.

Gone is the starre (said he) that lightned all ~~the~~ ~~the~~
christian world, withered is the Rose that beautified our

the seven Champions.

Christian fields; dead is the Dame that to her beautie
deigned all Christian women: for whom the air
With everlasting moanes. This day henceforth be fatal
to all times, and counted for a dismal day of death. Let
never the Sunne rayes with his beams there come againe,
but cloodes as blacke as pitch cover the earth with fear-
full darkness. Let every tree in this accursed Forrest,
henceforth be blasted with unkinde windes: let bran-
bles, heards and flowers consume and together, let grasse
and blouwing buds wither and decay, and all things neare
the place where she was baine, bee turned to a dismal,
blacke and sable colour, that the Earth it selfe in mour-
ning garments may lament her losse. Let never Birds
sing chearefully in top of trees, but like the mournfull mu-
sicke of the Nightingale, fill all the air with fatal tunes:
let bubbling rivers murmure for her losse, & silver Swans
that swim theron sing dolefull melody: let all the dales
belonging to these fatal woods be covered with greene br-
yed serpents, croaking toades, hissing snakes, and sight-
killing cockatrices: in blashed trees let fearfull Ratnes
shrike, let boynets crye, and crickets sing, that after this
it may be vailed a place of dead mens wandring ghosts.
But sond wretched, why do I thus lament in baine, and
bathe her bloudy boode with my teares, when griefe by
no meanes will recall her life? Yet this shall satisfie her
soule, for I will goe a Pilgrimage into Ierusalem, & offer
up my teares to Jesus Christ vpon his blessed Sepulcher,
by which my shamed soule may be walst from this bloody
guilt, which was the causer of this sorrowfull dayes mis-
happe.

These sorrowfull words were no sooner ended, but he
ooke her bloudy kinnes betwix his fainting armes,
and gaue a hundred kisses vpon her dying coloured lips,
retayning yet y colour of Alabaster new walst in pur-
ple blood, and in this extasie a whilie lying, gaue waye to
other to unfold their woes.

But

The second Part of

But his sorries whiche sorries wer as great as his, protested never to negle one day, but duly wepe a sea of teares vpon their Mothers grane, till from the Earth did spring some mournfull flower, to beare remembrance of her death, as did the Violet that sprung from chaste Adonis blood, when Venus wept to see him slaine. Likewise the other syxe Champions (that all the time of their lamentations stood like men drownd in the depth of sorrow) began now a little to recover themselves: and after protestyd by the honour of true knighthood, and by the soper and golden Warter of S. Georges leg, to accompane him vnto the holy Land, bare footed without either hose or shoo, onely clad in russet gaberdine, like the vsuall Pilgrimes of the world, and never to returne till they haue payd their dutes vpon that blessed Sepulcher.

That in this sorrowfull manner weareid they the time away, filling the howres with Echoes of their lamentations, and recouring their dolors to the whistling windes: but at last, when blacke Night began to approach, and with her sable mantles to ouer-sprede the chissall firmament, they retayned (with her dead body) backe to the Cittie of London, where the report of this tragical accident, drowned their friends in a sea of sorrow: for the newes of her timeless death was no sooner bynted abroad, but the same caused both olde and young to lament the losse of so swete a Ladie. The siluer headed agay that had swont in scarlet gownes to mete in Councell, sat now at home in discontented grieses: the gallant youths and comely virgins that had wont to beautifie the straetes with costlye garments, went drooping vp and downe in blacke and mournfull vesture: and those remaynarde hearts that didome were opprest with joyre, now constrained their eyes like fountaines to distill drops of blyntly and pechy teares.

This generall griefe of the Citizens continued for the space of thirtie dayes, at the chace vholcote of Sain George with

the seuen Champions.

with his Sonnes and the other Champions interred her
body verie honourably, and erectyd over the same a liche-
and costly Monument, in sumptuous state like the tomb
of Mausolus, whiche was called one of the Wondres of
the World: or like to the Pyramides of Grecce, whiche
is a staine to all Architectures: for theron was portray-
ed the Quene of Chastite with her Maydens, bathing
themselves in a christall Fountaine, as a witness of her
wondrous Chastite, against the luffull attailements of
marie a Knight. Theron was also most lively pictured
a Turtle-bone sitting vpon a tree of gold, in signe of the
true loue that she bore to her betrothed husband. Also a sil-
uer coloured Swan swimming vpon a Christall river, as
a token of her beautie: for as the Swan excelleth all other
fowles in whitenes, so she for beautie excelled all Ladies
in the world.

I leau to speake of the curios workmanship of the
pinacles that were framyd all of the purest teat, the pum-
mels of siluer and Jasper stones. Also I omit the Pen-
dants of gold, the Scrutchions of Pyncts, & the Armes of
Countreyes that beautified her Toombe: the discourse
whereof requires an Oratours eloquence, or a penne of
golde dippe in the dew of Heliicon or Pernassus Hill, where-
as the Muses do inhabit. Her Statue or Picture was
carried cunningly in a lablaster, and layd (as it were v-
pon a pillow of greene stike, like vnto Pigmaleons puoyie
Image, and directly ouer the same hung a siluer Tablete,
wheron in letters of golde was this Epitaph written,

Here lies the wynder of this yworldly age
For beautie, yvit, and princely maiestie,
Whom spitefull death in his imperious rage
Procurde to fall through ruthlesse cruckie:

C

In

The second Part of

In leauie spots within a fragrant wood,
Vpon a thornie brake she spilt her blood.

Let Virgins pure and Princes of great might,
With siluer perled teares imbalme this tomb,
Accuse the fatall sisters of despight,
For blasting thus the pride of natures bloom :
For here she sleeps within this earthly graue,
whose worth deserues a golden tomb to haue

Seauen yeares she kept her sweet Virginitie,
In absence of her true betrothed Knight,
When thousands did perceiue her chasitie,
Whilst he remained in prison daye and night :
But yet we see that things of purest prize,
Forsakes the earth to dwell aboue the skies.

Maidens come mourne with dolefull melody
And make this monument your settled bower
Here shed your brackish teares eternally,
Lament both yere, month, week, day, hower :
For here she rests whose like can nere be foud
Her beauties pride lyes buried in the ground.

the seuen Champions.

Her wouded hart that yet doth freshly bled,
Hath causd seuen knights a iourny for to take
To faire Ierusalem in Pilgrimes weed,
The furie of her angrie ghost to slake:
Because their siluane sports was chiefeſt guilt,
And onely cauſe her blood was timiles spilt.

Thus after the Towne was erected, and the Epitaph
ingrauen in a ſiluer Tablet, and al things perſonned ac-
cording to Saint Georges direcſion, he left his Sonnes in
the Cittie of London vnder the gouernment of the Eng-
liſh King: and in compaie of the other ſixt Champions,
he tooke his iourny towards Ierusalem.

They were attired after the manner of Pilgrimes, in
ruſſet gaberdines downe to their ſtoote, in their hauſts they
boxe ſtaues of Ebon wood tipt at the endes with ſiluer, the
pikes whereof were of the Strongeſt Lydian Steele, of ſuch
a ſharpnes that they were able to pierce a target of Toy
toys ſhell: vpon their breaſts hung Croſſes of crimson
Ulike, to ſignifie that they were Christian Pilgrimes,
travelling to the Sepulcher of Christ.

In this manner ſet they ſaward from England in the
Spring time of the yeare, when Flora had beauitid the
earth with ſpatures tapeſtrie, and made their paſſages as
pleasant as the Girdens of Hesperides, adornd with all
kinde of odiferous flowers. When as they croſſed the
ſeaſ, the ſiluer waues ſeene to lye as ſmoothe as chiſtal
pce, and the Dolphiſ to daunce aboue the boordes, a
ſigne of a prosperous tourney. In travelling by land the
waues ſeemed ſo ſhort and callis, and the chirping melody
of birdes made them ſuch muſique as they paſſed, that in a
hort ſeaſon they arriued beyond the boorders of Christen-
dom, and had entred the conſines of Africa.

.21. The second Part of

There were they forced in sted of downie beds nightly
to rest their wearie limmes, upon heapes of sun-burnt
melle; and in sted of silken curlens and curious canopies,
they had the clowdes of heauen to couer them. Now
their naked leggs and bare feet, that had wort to stride the
fately stedes, and to trample in fields of Pagans blod,
were forced to elye the craggid mountaines, and to en-
ture the tormentes of pricking briers, as they traayled
thorough the desert places and comfortlesse solitarie wil-
ernes.

What werte the dangers that hapned to them in they
journey, before they arrived in Iudea, and most princely
their atchieuementes, and honourable their adventures:
which for this time I passe over, leaving the Champions
soo long in thys travell towards the holy Sepulcher of
Christ, and speake what happened to Fra. Georges the
daungeris visiting their spotters Tombe in the Cittie of
London, and in such a stede as shal be shewed in other
partys, as also his tyme and how he was slayn
double, shal nevyl be shewed, but to rite haue he
wrote to my selfe in old hande, and shal be shewed
scamyn to aske a purer place to medeacyd: I haue



soo daungeris in this place, as I haue shewed in other
partys, as also his tyme and how he was slayn
double, shal nevyl be shewed, but to rite haue he
wrote to my selfe in old hande, and shal be shewed
scamyn to aske a purer place to medeacyd: I haue



soo daungeris in this place, as I haue shewed in other
partys, as also his tyme and how he was slayn
double, shal nevyl be shewed, but to rite haue he
wrote to my selfe in old hande, and shal be shewed
scamyn to aske a purer place to medeacyd: I haue

CHAP.

the seuen Champions.



CHAP. II.

Of the strange giftes that S. Georges sonnes offered at their Mothers Toombe, and vwhat hapned thereupon: hovv her Ghost appeared to them, and counselled them to the pursue of their Father: also, hovv the Ki. of Eng-land installed them with the honor of knighthood, and furnished them vwith abiliments of wvarre.



He swift sorte stedes of Titans sie-
rie Carre had almost finished a
yere, since Sabraes Funerall was
solemnized: in which time Sainct
Georges thre Sonnes had visited
their Mothers Tomb oftner than
there were dayes in the yeare, and
had shed as manie teares thereon
in remembraunce of her loue, as

there were starres in the glistering blyle of Heauen: but
at last these thre yong Princes fell at a ciuill discord and
deadly strife, which of them shold beare the truest loue
unto their Mothers dead bodie, and which of them shold
be held in greatest esteeme. For before manie dayes were
expired, they concluded to offer by thre severall denot-
ions at her Tombe: and he that deuised a gift of the rarest
prise and of the straungest qualitie, shold bee held in the

The second Part of

greatest honour, and accompted the noblest of them all. This determination was spedily perfourmed, and in so short a time accomplished, that it is wonderfull to discouer.

The first thynking to excēd his brothers in the stranges-
nes of his Gifte, made repaire unto a cunning Inchaun-
tresse, which had her abiding in a secret caue adioyning to
the Cittie, whom he procarred (thongh manie rich giftes
and large promises) by arte to devise a meane to get the
honoū from his Bretheren, & to hane a gifte of that strange
nature, that all the world might wonder at the report
theroē.

The Inchauntresse (being won with his promises) by
her artes and magickē spells, devised a Garland contay-
ning all the diversitie of flowers that euer grew in earth-
ly Gardens: and though it were in the dead time of win-
ter, when as the siluer yicles had discrado both heare and
flower of their beauties, and the Nootherne snow lay free-
zing on the mountaine tops, yet was this Garland contri-
ued after the fashion of a rich Imperial Crown, with as
manie sevrall flowers as euer Flora placed vpon the
downes of rich Arcadia: in diversitie of colours lyke the
glistring Rainē-bow, when as it shineth in her greatest
p̄ide: and calling such an odiferous sent and sweete sa-
vour, as though the Heavens had rained downe showers
of Campheere, Bisse, & Amber-grōce.

This rare and exceeding Garland was no soone sca-
med by Inchauntment, and deliniered into his hands, but
he left the Inchauntresse sitting in her Edom chaire vpon
a blocke of Steele (practising her satall artes), with her
hair hanging about her sholders, like wreaths of snakes
or inuenomed serpents: and so retourned to his spother
tounē, where he hung it vpon a pillar of siluer that was
placed in the middle of the spougment.

The second Brether likewise repaired to the Combe,
and brought in his hand an ynowē Lute, wheron he playd
such

of the seuen Champions.

such inspiring melodie, that it seemed like the harmony of Angels, or the celestiall musique of Apollo when hee descended heauen for the loue of Daphne, whom hee turned into a Baytree. The musick being finished, hee laid ys Luke in a damaske scarffe, and with great humilitie hee hung it at the west ende of the Tombe vpon a knobbe of Jasper stome.

Lastly, the third Brother likewise repaired with no outward devotion or worldly gift: but clad in a vesture of white silke, bearing in his hand an instrument of death, like an innocent Lambe going to sacrifice: or one readie to be offered for the loue of his mothers soule.

This strange maner of repaire, caused his other brothers to stand attentively, and with vigilant eyes to behold the conclusion.

First, after he had (submissually and with great humilitie) let fall a shower of siluer teares from the cesternes of his eyes, in remembrance of his mothers timeles tragedie, he prickt his naked brest with a siluer bookin, the which he brought in his hand, from which there trickled downe some thirtie drops of bloud, which he after offered vp to his mothers Tombe in a siluer bason, as an evident signe that there can be nothing more dearer, nor of more precious price, than to offer vp his owne bloud for her loue. This ceremonious gift caused his two other Brothers to swell in hatred like two chased Lions, and with furie to run vpon him, intending to catch him by the haire of the head, and to drag him round about their mothers Tombe, till his braines were dasht against the marble pavement, and his bloud sprinkled vpon her graue: but this wicked enterprize so moved the Maiestie of heauen, that ere they could accomplish their intents, or staine their hands in his bloud, they heard (as it were) þ noyse of deadmens bones rattling in the ground. And thereupon (looking fearfully about) the Tombe seemed of it selfe to open, and therewout to appear a most terrible and ghastly shape, pale,

The second Part of

pale, like unto ashes, in countenance resembling they
Mother with her brest besmeard in bloud, and her bodie
wounded with a hundred scarres: and so with a dismal &
rufull loue she spake unto her desperate soules in thys
manner.

Oh you degenerate from Natures kinde, why do you
scheare to make a murther of your selues: can you indare
to see my bodie rent in twaine, my heart split in sander,
and my wombe dismembred? Abate this furie, staine not
your hands with your owne blouds, nor make my Tombe
a spectacle of moe death. Unite your selues in concord,
that my discontented soule may sleepe in peace, and never
more be troubled with your unbridled humours. Make
haste I say, and arme your selues in steeled corslets, and
follow your valiant Father to Ierusalem, for he is there in
danger and distresse of life. Away I say, or els my angry
ghost shall never leau this world, but haunt you by and
downe with gashly visions.

This being said, she vanished from their sight, lyke to
the brittle ayre, whereat for a time they stood amazed and
almost distraught of their wits, shorough the terrorour of
her words: but at last recovering their former senses they
all vowed by the eternall Maestie of Heauen, never to
proffer the like iniurie againe, but to liue in brotherly con-
cord and unitie till the dissolution of their earthly bodyes.
So in all hast they went unto the King, and certesled him
of all things that had happened: and falling upon they
knees before his Maestie, requested at his hands the ho-
nour of Knighthod, and leue to depart in the pursue
of their Father and the other Champions, that were fal-
len in great distresse.

The King purposing to accomplish their desires, and
to fullil their requestis, presently condiscended, and not
only gaue them the honour of Knighthod, but furnished
them with rich abiliments of warre, answerable to their
magnanimous mindes. First he frankly bestrooped hym

the seven Champions.

pon them thre stately Palphryes, bred upon the bright
mountaines of Sacerdote in Colours like to an Irome grasse,
debellied with silver points, and in pace more swifter
then the Swiftest Cheste, which is a stede of horseingents
bred by the wings upon the Alpes, that be certaine crag-
ged mountaines that beclido the Kingdomes of Italy and
Spaine: in bouldnes and courage, they were like to Beu-
ccipalus the horse of Macedonian Alexander, as to Cæsars
steedes that never daunted in the field, for they were trap-
ped with rich trappings of golde after the Moroco fashion
with Sapphires framed like unto gyrome chaires with backs
of Steele, and their foreheads were beautified with span-
gled plumbes of purple feathers, whereon being many
golden perelutes the king did set his boordes upon them
thre costly fionards brought of pure C. Lidian Steele, with
Lanices bound about with plates of brass, at the topes
therof hung silken stremes beautified with the Eng-
lish Crosse, being the crimson lynes of Darnelred and
hono; of aburnterous champions: Thus in this Ropall
manner rode these thre young knyghts from the City of
London in company of the king with a traine of knyghts
and mallant C. gentlemen which continued farr onto the
Sea. The mornynge they left them unto their future fortunes
and exerced harkes in the English Count.

The second Part of it;

3. *Subiecti sunt et regnante C. gloria in gloriam hunc*

• 1433. **Epiphany** As the **Advent** season begins, the **Epiphany** season begins. The **Epiphany** season is the season of the **Three Kings** and the **Three Magi**.

21 How Saint Georges sonnes after they vvere
knightred by the English King, traualed to-
wards Barbare, and how they redemeed the
Dukes Daughter of Normandie from rawish-
ment that was sayed in a wood by three
devylls. Nevydes: And also of the tragical tale
of Sagittarius, a strange miserie, wth other ac-
cidents in his perey. Item in his perey, all the
waye to the end: and in his perey, anaymable anaymable in whom



to their former triumphs, still and sojourning in a
solitary and melancholy world, and finding some solace in
the fervent and ardent love of their wives, and the games of
chess and cards, which were the chief amusements of their
leisure hours; but their health suffered; when began true honour
to flourish in their princely brats, and the cornerstone of their
splendid achievements to incourage their desires. Al-
though but ten years late budding on their cheeks, yet
positively marked triumph in their hearts; and although their
children

the seven Champions.

childish armes as yet dedicated the painfull adventures
of knighthood, yet bwe they high and princely cogitantes
ourselves great armes, as when their Father fleshe the
burning Dragon in Aegypt, for preservation of the lande
therefore, and fleshe alsoe mannes righte. And soe
when this trauell they to the further parts of the Kingdome
of France (governed by the direction of Fortune)
without any adventure worth the noting, till at last ry-
ding through a myghtie Forrest standing on the borders
of Lusitania, they heard (a farre off as it were) the wofull
cryes of a distressed woman: which in this manner filled
the ayre with the Echo of her moanes.

Oh heauens (sayd shes) haue mercy and pitifull unto a
maiden in distresse, and send some happy passengers that
may deliver me from these inhumane monsters.

This wofull and unexcepted noyse, caused the Knights
to alight from their horses, and to see the euent of this acci-
dence. Soo after they had tied their horses to the boode of
a pine tree by the reynes of their bridles, they walkeon
foote into the thickest of the Forrest with their weapons
drawne, ready to withstand any assailement whatwener:
as as they were neare to the distressed Virgin, they heard
her breste with this pittie moving lamentation the sec-
ond time.

Come, come, come courteous knyght, or else I must for-
goe that precious jewell, whiche all the world can never
againe recover.

These woordes caused them to make the more spede, and
to run the nearest way for the maidens succour. At last,
they approach her presence, whiche they found her layed
by the locks of her wondre haire to the trunke of an orange
tree, and thre cruel and inhumane Negroes standing nea-
re to despoyle her of her challice, and with their lasses to
blow the blouming bosome of her swete and wasspotted Virgi-
nynesse.

Then when Saint Georges Swarte beheld her louelie
beaute.

The ^{13th} Part of the

transcendence of his power, and sheathed before his own before him,
firmly trusting his mother's secret command, exposed his pale
countenance to the sun. But when the sun had set in Glodde,
affrighted, and casting away his spear and shield, he groped, and
sheathed their angry weapons in their loathsome sheaths; for
the fell darkness of night did bring a painful malice to the
fearful soul, and now he durst no longer face his master. But when
he came to the castle, he was met by the master of the chamber and like
a son he was received, and the master of the castle, his captor,
and his son, and the master of the chamber, and other soldiers, fearing the
bold knight, quoth then, and took remouled roch
at armes, to tell the news of thy confederate, wherof still he durst
say he durst not, and great sorrow did vexing unto his nobilitie, the
whiche I perceiving, I giveth him slowly instruments, and yow
knights, and I doleful entreated him to come to me in a Virgin, in
dolor, betwix the bents of these boldfull Negroes, whiche
you know well, to make you small compasyon, and though unto
such beasts great misfayre he did receive, the full conse of my
misfayre he durst not. Sir, to let him all this day
my good father (as he doth) with gentle fructe, summe
Spirituall, and a Digne and sole commandour of the state
of Normandy, a countreyn of so fructuall in the kingdom of
Fraunce, whose lands & reuenues in his prosperitie made
so great summe, continually he had then in armes, both
of knyghts and valiant gentlemen as any Prince in Eu-
rope, wherat the King of France greatly envied, and by
blacke warres deposid my father from his painely dignitie,
who for safegard of his life, in company of mee his
sonnes before and daugther, betwix the soules, solletarie
Innes, where I every daynes haue beene fayrely remained in a
poore cell of armes, & habidg no other habitation, paines
both beene builded with plants of Wines and haben holes,
and covered over head with clobbes of earth, and spisses
of grasse, seauen yeares we haue continued in great ex-
teme, susteyning our hungera with the frutes of
frize.

the four Champions.

tray, and opening out thereof with the wind of sea,
saw, that full as mighty upon us as the others were in
time of Apocalypse eagle, unfeared by armes and da-
mages before her, in that hand containing two-clad of our
selves in flowers, the which the pale thinningly woun-
ing together, in no wise in regard of her head as fully nigh
there, to staine of mustard; that had about her neck two
ringes to her neighbour ear, the bane the whistling windes
reounding in the bosome her clockes to tell the minutes
of the wakening night, as snakes and toades that flap
in rootes of rotten trees, or campe her to cover us, are
not wrought of Median silke, the which the Juste who
gave meane upon their siluer loomies, but the sable
clodes of heauen, when as the chesculday hath clost
her christall windows upon riding you about.

Thus in this manner continued wee in this solitary
solernesse, making both arms and heades our chiefe com-
panions, till these mercilleous Spites (whose hatefullness
you have made like to a tryer fountaine to water the spar-
ched earth with streames of blode) who came into our
cell, or simple cabinet, thinking to have found some store
of treasure. But calling their gazing eyes upon my hem-
bes, they were presently inchaneted with a lustfull desire,
only forswere the sweete but of my virginitie. Then with
a furious and dismal countenance, more blacke than
than the sable garments of sad Melporaine, when wry
her straibegie quill the imates of blodie tragedies, or
with a heart more crueler, than was Neros the ty-
rannous Romane Emperor, when he beheld the cru-
elles of his naturall brother Iagoe open by his in-
humane and mercilleous commandement; or when he
stood upon the highest toppe of a mighty mountayne
to see that famous and Imperiall Cittie of Roome set
on fire by the remorseless handes of his trealetting
ministers, that added unhalloved flames to his unholy
fire.

The second Part of

The Amorous and Wicked minded Negroe. With
violent pernicious furye aye of other, and in all cruell yce
honour, but to the blinthe boist of my poyntes sake, stand-
ing before the entrie of this Cell whiche, neither ther-
mored hand of his almes dares to stike glistering like the
frozen picles upon the Southern Mountaine, nor the
Grovian glister of his hand, haberd in the pledge of wise-
dom done in þis þame, all my teare for extortions
sould ante whit shate their cruelties, but like þisim dogs
of Barbarie, they lefft my Father fast bound unto the tree,
and like a gregous bipes twine me by the crumells of my
golden haire, and drayn me like a silly Lamb unto this
slaughtering place, intending to satife their lustes with
the flower of my chasttie.

Here I make my humble supplication to the Maiestys
of þeare, to bee remenged oppon their cruelties: I re-
þephe to them the rewards of blawie rauishments by the
example of Tereus that basfull King of Thrace, and by þis
furious wile, that in redenge of þer wiflers rauishment
caused her þusson to eate the flesh of his owne Sonne.
Like wile (to þeare my þundered bones) I tolde them,
that by the Rape of Lucrece the þeame Patron, Tar-
quinus with þis name was for ever banished out of Rome:
þis and other examples like the þisim tale, whose
delibutantes we yet seeynþ nothing but rape and mar-
gery. yet neither the strownes of þeame, nor the ferre-
ble threates of þeare, could wakke their blawie mindes:
but they purposed to þerfaer in that wikkidnes, & doþo
that in all the leaues of the tree that grew within the
þeame entrie turned into golden þearle, I made as weal,
this in the golden þreames of þeame, where Mydas
made his golden wyl a way: yet shuld they not redeme
my chayre from the staine of their insatiable and lust-
full wikkidnes. all in þis þeame, they bound me with the crumells of
myne owne haire to this ðenze tree, and at the very un-
þeame

the seuen Champions.

Want that saffer to to helpe my unspotted bodie, but by
theverall worlēing of God, - all happe appered, -
not only remeasure from thē syrennes of fires, but
quit the tobold from thē of the wicke bold creatures that
ever naturē framēd. So, which most noble and invinc-
ible Knights! If ever Virgins prayers may obtaine famo-
re at the courtē of Heaven, humbly with I make my sup-
plications, that you may prove as valiant champions, as
ever put on helme; and that your names may ring to e-
uerie Princes eare, as far as bright Hiperion sholēnes hys
golden face.

¶ This tragicall tale has no fether strowe, But these
Knights (whose remekefull hearts shewen hony ligges) im-
baced the sorowfull Maiden betwixt their armes, &
earnestlye requested her to condue them unto the place,
where as she left her father bound unto the withered ske.
To which shee willingly consented, and thanked them
highly for their kindnes; but befor they appered to the
miserable wylde, that for the griece of his haundement
and the violent slage of his daughter, he was forced to
yeare up his miserable life to the mercies of unayoydable
death.

¶ When Saint Georges valiant sonnes (in companie
of this sorowfull Maiden) came to the tree, and (contra-
rie to their expections) found her Father cold and stiffe,
both deynd of sense and feeling, also finding his hands &
face couered with greene moss, which they supposed to be
done by the Roben red-breast and other little birds, who
naturallly couer the bare parts of ane bodie which they
 finde dead in the wylde, they fell into a maine commotion
and straunge of minde.

¶ This speciallye pained daughter longing to haue helpe and
joy and comfort in this wylde, made both heaven & earth
to resound with her exceeding lamentations, and mourn-
ing without comfort like weeping Niobe, that was turned
into a rocke of stonye, her griece so abounded for the losse of
her

The second Part of

her children but when the first meeting took place the brief
and the comfortable bustle of the station and with the pale
and weary faces, to receive from their country friends, what to
them the command of her son in a company of this deadly
body, they could not afford her to burie him under a
chef-maitre's where they left her continually troubling his
senseless grave with her tears and returned back to
their home, where they had the most misery of life, for
refuging to a little room, to be quiet and in their misery.

37. **Chancery will leave them for a time, and speak of the
seamen Champions of Christendome, that were gone on
pilgrimage to the Tittle of Jerusalem; and what strange
adventures happened to them in their travels.**

11000 to 12000 per square meter of surface area.

the Seven Champions

CHA. LIII.

Of the Adventure of the Golden Fountaine in Damasco: how sixe of the Christian Champions were taken prisoners by a mighty Giant, and after how they were deliuered by Saint George: and also how he redemeed fourteene Iewes out of prison: with divers other strange accidents that happened.



IM now speake of the fauorable clementine that shalld forstare the wod to y Christian Champions in their travellis to Iernalem. For after they were departid from England, and had iournelid in their pilgrym attir the rough mane strange Countreys, at last they arrived upon the Countreys of Damasco, which is a Countrey not onely beauteous with sumptuous and costly buildings framed by the curious Architecure of mans bruce, but also furnished with all the precious gifts that nature in her greatest liberallitie could beare.

In this fruitless Dominion long time the Christian Champions rested their wearie steps, and made they abode in the house of a rich and courteous Jew, a man that spent his wealth chiefly to the succour and comfort of tra-

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traders, and wand'ring Pilgrims, his house was not curiouslye buildyd of carued flamber Work, but framed with quarries of lewstones, and supporde by many stately pil-
lars of the purest marble: The gates and entrie of his
house were continually kept open in signe of his bounti-
full minde, ouer the portall therof hang a brazen table,
wheron was most curiouslye ingrauen the picture of Ce-
ntral the Goddess of plenty deckt with garlands of wheate,
wreathes of Oliv: s, bunches of Aines, and with all man-
ner of frutfull things, the chamber wherin these Chari-
pores tooke their nighty reposes and golden keepe, was
garnished with as many windows of Chrissall glasse, as
there were dales in the yere, and the wals painted with
as many stoyles as there were yeres since the world be-
gan: it was likewise boylt foursquare, after the manner of
pyramids in Grece, at the east ende whereof was moste
liuely peynated, bright Phoebus rising from Aurora's gol-
den bed, whose glistering countenance at his departure,
dissained the elements with a purple colour. At the west
side was likewise peynated hem Thetis frappes upon the
silver sande solem as Hiperius carre drives to the watris
of ear, and takes his nighty repose upon his lowers bo-
sonie: on the North side was painted in countaines of snow
whiche oops did seeme to reach to heauen, & mightie wodes
over hung with siluer boughes, which is the nature of the
Prestberys Climate, in maner of a
Lastly upon the west side of the chamber satte the God
of the sea riding vpon a Dolphins backe, with an hun-
dred Mermaides following him, with their golden tra-
mels setting vpon the siluer wavyes, therer the Tritons
seemeth to danunce above the Chrissall streams with a num-
ber of other siluer scaled fishes that made the sea delight-
full in pleasure and paine. And in the
Over the rofe of the Chamber was moste perfectlye peyn-
ated the soure ages of the world, which seemed to over-
spred the rest of the curios workes.

the seuen Champions.

First the golden age was pendant over the Earth: the second being the silver a mettle somewhat baser than the first, seeme to overspred the fræzing North. The thirde, which is the brazen age, beautifyed the westernne parts: The fourth and last being of Iron, being the basest of them all, seemed to bee pendant over the Southerne clime.

Thus in this curious Chamber rested these warlike Champions a long season, where their food was not delicate but wholesome, and their seruices were not curios, but comely: answerable to the braue mindes of such He- roical Champions: the courteous Jewe their friendly hoste whome nature had honored with seuen comely Sonnes dayly kept them company, and not only shewed them the curiositie of this habitation, but also described the pleasant situation of his Countre, how the townes & Cities were garnished with all manner of delights, that they seemed like the immortall Pallaces of heauen, where celestiall Angels doe record their Vermonies, and the feldes and flowing medowes so beautified with natures gladsome ornaments, that they seemed for pleasure to excide the paradise of Eliuzan, where crowned soules doe live in endles glory.

The dayes were spent away in such manner discourses to the exceeding pleasure of the Christian Knights, and cuermore when darke night approched, and the wonted time of sleepe sommoned them to their silent and quiet restes, the Jewes children beeing seuen of the brauest and comelyest boyes that euer dame nature framed, tyred the Christian Champions sates wth suche sweete inspiring Melodies which they rayned from theyre Ivory Lutes, that not Arion (when all the Arte of mu- sique consented with his tyme, voyce, and hand, when hee won mercy of the Dolphin, being forsaken of men) was comparable thereto. Whereby the Christian Champions

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were inchaunted with such delights, that they golden
sleeves seemed to be as pleasant as the sweete joyes of Ma-
radice.

But bpon a time, after the curteous Jew had intelli-
gence how they were Christian Knights, and those admi-
red martall Champions, whom same had canonized to
be the Wonders of the world for martall discipline and
Knightly aduentures: finding a fit opportunitie as he
walked in their compagnies vpon an euening vnder an ar-
bort of vine banches, he revealed to them the secretes of
his soule, and the cause of his so sad and solitarie dwel-
ling. So standing bareheaded in the middle of the Cham-
pions, with his white haires hanging downe to his shoul-
ders in colour like to the siluer Swanne, and more softer
than the downe of thistles, or Median like untwisted, he
began with a sober countenance and gallant demeanour
to speake as followeth vnto them, that set led them atten-
tively to heare.

I am sure (quoth he) you invincible Knights, that yee
meruaile at my solitarie course of living, and that you
greatly muse wherefore I exempt my selfe from the com-
panie of all worldlings, except my seuen Sonnes, whose
sights be my chiefeſt comfort, and the onely prolongers of
my life. Therefore prepare your eares to entertaine the
Strangest Discourse that euer tung pronounced, or euer
wearied ages man in the height of his extremitys depy-
uered.

I was in my formeſt peres (whilst Fortune smilde vpon
my happiness) the principal Commandaunder and chiefe
Owner of a certayne fountaine, of ſuch a wonderfull &
precious vertue, that it was valued to be worth the King-
domme of Iudea: the water thereof was ſo ſtrange in ope-
ration, that in ſoure and twentie boordes it wold conuert
ante mettall, as of brasse, copper, iron, lead or tinne, in-
to rich refined golde: the ſtone vnt it wold turne into
pure ſiluer, and ante kindes of earth into excellent mettal.

of the seuen Champions.

By the vertue thereof I haue made the leues of Trees
more r̄icher than Indian Pearle, and the blades of grass
of more value than the Jewels that be found in the coun-
try of America.

The richness therof was no sooner bruted through the
world, but it caused many foraine Knights to trie the ad-
venture, and by force of armes to bereave me of the ho-
nor of this Fountaine. But at that time Fortune graced
me with one and twentie Sonnes, whereof seven be yet
living, and the onely comfort of myne age: but the other
fourteene (whom frowning Fortune hath bereaved me of)
manie a day by their valiant prowesse and matchles forti-
tudes defended the Fountaine from manie furious assa-
liers: for there was no knight in all the world that was
found so hardie nor of such invincible courage, that if they
once attempted to encounter with anie of my valiaunt
Sonnes, but they were either taken prisoners, or slaine in
the combat.

The fame of their valors, and the riches of the Foun-
taine rung through manie strange Countreyes, and last-
ly came to the ears of a furious Giant, dwelling vpon
the borders of Arabia: who at the report thereof came
armed in his steele caute with a mighty bat of yron on his
necke, like to the furious Hercules that burst the brazen
gates of Cerberus in twaine, and in stafe and bignes like
the Sonne of Ioue that booke the mighty mountaine Atlas
vpon his shoulders: he was the conquerour of my sonnes,
and the first causer of my sodaine downfall. But when I
had intelligence of the ouerthow of fourteene of my sons,
and that he had made conquest of the wealthie fountaine,
I with the rest of my Children, thinking all hope of re-
covery to be past, betooke our selues to this solitarie course
of life, where euer since in this mansion or hermitage we
have made our abode and residence, spending our wealth
to the release of travelling Knights and wandering Pil-
grimes, hoping once againe that smiling Fortune would

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aduance ba to some better happe: and to bee plaine right
worthy Champions my hope was never at the height of
full perfection till this present time, wherein your excel-
lent presences almost assure me that the hideous monster
shalbe conquered, my fountaine restored, my Soules
deaths (or dead sure they are) reuenged.

The Champions with great admiration gane eare to
the strange discourse of this reverent Jew, and intended
in requitall of his extraordinarie kindnesse to vndertake
this aduenture. And the more to encourage the other,
Saint George began in this manner to deliuer his mind,
speaking both to the Jew their host, and his valiant fel-
low Champions.

I haue not without great wonder (most reverent and
curteous olde man) heard the strange discourse of thy ad-
mirable fountaine, and doe not a little lament that one of
so kinde & liberall a disposition shoulde be dispossessed of so
exceeding riches, for that wealth to a liberal nature is a-
lone convenient: neither am I lesse sorry, that so inhu-
mane a monster and knownen enemie to all curtesie and
kinde shoulde haue the fruition of so exceeding great Tre-
sure: for to the wicked, wealth is the cause of their moze
wickednes. But that which most grieueth me, is: that
haunting so many valiant Knights to thy founnes, they all
were so unfortunat to fall into the handes of that relent-
lesse Monster. But be comforstes kinde olde man, for I
haue hope by the power of heaven we were directed hither
to punish that hatefull Giant, revenge the injuries offered
to thine age, satisfie with his death the death of thy chil-
dren if they be dead, and restore to thy bountous possession
that admirable rich fountaine.

And nowe to you my valiant Companions I speake,
that with me through many dangers haue aduentured:
Let vs courageously attempt this rare aduenture, wherein
such honor to our names, such happiness to our frends, such
glory to God confisstes, in reconquering right to the wrong.

of the Seuen Champions.

ed, and punishing righteally the wrongers of the righteous. And that there be no contention among vs who shall begin this aduenture, so that I knowe all of you thirtie after honoꝝ, let lots bee made, and to whom soever the thirte lot falleth let him be soymest in assailling the Giant, and God and all good fortune be our gaides.

The exceeding joy which the old Jewe conceiued, at the speeches of Saint George, had neare hande bereft him of the use of sense, so aboue measure was he ouerjoyed. But at length recovering use of speech, he thus thankfully bade forth.

How infinitely I finde my selfe bounde vnto you, yea famous and undoubted Christian Champions, all my ablenes is not able to expresse: onely thankfullnes from the exchequer of a true heart shall to you bee rendyed.

The Champions without more wodis disturbing them selues from their pilgrym attyre, euerie one selected forth an armes fitting to their postes bodyes, and in stead of their Ebone staves tipt with siluer, they welde in their handes the Steele blades, and their scote that had wont to endure a painful pilgrymage vpon the bare ground, were now ready to mount the golden stirrop, but as I said, they purposed not generally to assaile the Giant, but singlye euerie one to tri his owne fortune thereby to obtaine the greater honoꝝ, and their deeds to meritt the higher fame, therfore the lots being cast amoung them selues which of them shold be gaine the aduenture. The lot fell first to Saint Denis the Noble Champion of France, who greatlye rejoiced at his fortune, and so departed for that night to get things iareadines, but the next morning no sooner had the golden Sunne dispaine his bewy in the East, but Saint Denis arose from his slaggish bed, and attyred himselfe in costly armes, and mounted vpon a steede of grone gray with a spangled Plumbe of purple feathers on his burgonet, spangled with starres of golde, resembling the aurore armament beautified with starres.

After

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After he had taken leave of the other Champions, and had demanded of the Host where the Giant had his residence, he departed forward on his journey: and before the Sunne had mounted to the top of heauen, he approached to the Giants presence, which as then sate upon a block of steele directly before the golden fountaine, satisfying his hunger with raw flesh, and quenching his thirst wth the inpes of ripe grapes.

The first sight of his ugly and deformed proportion al-
most daunted the bale of the French Champion, so as he stood in a maze, whether it were better to trie the adven-
ture, or to returne with dishonor backe to his other fellow
Knights. But having a heart furnished with true mag-
nanimite, he chose rather to dye in the encounter, than to
returns with infamie: so committing his trust to the va-
-constant Queene of chaunce, he spurred forth his horse,
and assayled the Giant so furiously, that the strokes of his
sabord sounded lyke inclemtie blowes hammered upon an
anapple.

But so smally regarded the Giant the puissant force of
this single knight, that he wold scarce rise from the place
where he sate: but yet remembred a vision that a little
before appeared unto him in his sleepe, which revealde unto him, how that a knight should come from the fayre
empayntures of the earth, which shold alone answere the
adventure of the fountaine, and vanquish him by force:
therefore not minding to be taken at advantage, he
suddenly started up, and with a grim and furious rooute,
waunte he ran upon Saint Denis, and took him horse, ar-
mour, furnisched and all under his left arme, as lightly as
a strong man wold take a sucking infant from his era-
nie, and booke him to a hollowe rocke of stone, bound about
with barres of yron: standing neare unto the fountayne,
in a balleyn betwixt two mightie mountaines: In which
prison he closed the French Champion, amongst fourteyn
other knyghtes that were al comen to the curteous jurn
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the seuen Champions.

as you heard before discoursed, and being proud of this attempt he returned backe to his blocke of Steele, where we will leue him sitting, glorying in his own conceite, and speake of the other champions remaining in the Jewes house, expecting the French knyghtes fortunate returne; but when the subtle Curtaines of darknes were drawne before the chayll windowes of the day, and night had taken possession of the elements, and no newes was heard of the Champions successe, they iudged presently that either hee was slaine in the adventure, or discomfited and taken prisoner.

Therefore they call lots againe which of them, the next morning shold trye his fortune, and revenge the French knyghts quarrel, but the lot fel to Saint James the Noble champion of Spaine, whereat his Princelie heart more introyed, then if he had borne mape King of the Westerne World.

So upon the next morning by the banke of day he attayned himselfe in rich and costly armes like the other Champion, and mounted vpon a Spanish Charet, in pace more swifter then the windes, and in portly state like to Bucephalus the proud steede of Macedonian Alexander: his caparison was in color like to the waves of the sea, his Bargeonet was beautified with a spangled plumbe of sable feathers: and vpon his brest hee bore the armes of Spaine.

Thus in this gallant manner departed he from the Jewes habitation, leaving the other Champions at their deuine contemplations for his happy successe, but his fortune chanced contrary to his wishes, so at the Giants first encounter hee was likewise born to the rocke of staine, so accompanayng Saint Denis.

This Champion the strongest and hardiest knyght at armes that ever set fode upon the confiue of Damasko, his strength was wonderable, that at one time hee durst encounter with a hundred knyghtes, but no w^t returne me

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againe to the other championes, whiche when night approached, and like unto morning the company of Haynt James they call lots the third time, and it fel to the Noble champion of Italy Saint Anthony, to come on the next morrowng attayred himselfe in costly habillments of war, and mounted upon a Barbarian warre as richly as did the valiant Iason when he aduentured into the ghe of Colcas, for the golden weare: and by Merchesloue, his helmet glistered like an ghe mountaine, deckt with a plumbe of ginger coloured feathers, and beautified with many siluer pendants. But his shinning glorie was some blentched with a cloude of mischance, although he was as valiant a knyght as euer warlike weape in the fieldes of warres, yet hee forsoke a certaynnesse in his fortitude, to smyld and the furious elemens of the Giant, that hee was forced to yestre ymagine psoner like the former Championes.

The next knyght that was cast, chanced to be Saint Andrew of Scotland, a knyght as dighty behoured in martiall discipline as any of the rest, his heare was of the baxe of the French shires, and wryte a capurion after the maner of the French, als Armo; garnished with greene oyles, like the color of the somer fieldes, upon his brest he boore a creste of purple vthe, and on his boughes a plumb of greene feathers: but yet fortune so frowned vpon his enterprize, that he nothing preuyaled, but committed his life to the mercy of the Giant, who therwile impesled him with the other knyghts.

The fift knyght to come to Saint Patricke of Ireland, as beaute a knyght as euer nature creasted, and as wondrous in his armementes: hee had a redde steed, a gian steede hee named it by and bame the steed of Troy, and vpon his eyne almythe and mervaille, vpon his bridle right rounde, hairenes shapely, and bony.

For he farrer had the knyghte reuyled to haue the shire of Lancastur, and had committed the charge to the yonge

the feueh Champions.

and burnisht sturre: But Saint Patrick appraoched
the sight of the Giant, mounted upon his Irish hobby,
clad in a corslet of proofe, beautified with finer
mailles; his plumes of feathers, was of the color of mir-
hine bryce, his horse covered with a pale of wenge law-
es of silver, and his saddle bound about with plates of
silver, like to an Iron thayre.

The sight of this valiant Champion so daunted the
courage of the Giant, that hee thought hym to bee the
knicht that the Nation had receaved, to helpe the ad-
venture shoule bee accomplitshed: therefore with no
sowredly sortitude he assayled the Irish knicht, who
with as princely valor indured the encounter: but the
unkindes destines, not intending to give hym the honor of
the victory, compelled the Champion to yeld to the
Champions, and like a Captiue to accompany the other
imprisoned Champions.

The next lat fell to Saint David of Wales, who
nothing discouraged at the discoufiture of the other
Christian knichtes, but at the morning sume prepared
into the aye armament, cladded in his silver armes
before the fountaine, with a golden Crichton shunning on
his heale, where he endured long & dangerous combate
with the Giant, making the skyre to resound with eches
of their stroakes, but at last when the Giant perce-
ved that Saint David beganne to graine almost breath,
lesse, in defending the hys and mightie plaines of the
shield batte, and chiefly through the long encounter,
the Giant receaved his strenght, and so redoubled his
stroakes that Saint David was constrained by the
other Christian Champions to yeld to the Empress
mercy.

But now the amiable and beuytfull Champion
of England Saint George, hee that is fames true
knight, the mappe of Honour, and the woldes wonder,
remayning

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Resounding in the greatest Nation, and sounding in his
earnes of the two Rovers of the Two Champions, and that
it was his chaine to try his fortune the next morning in the
adventure. He did then his hilles and made this humble
supplication to the Creatur of God. O Dolor creature of
God, invisiblye wise (quoth he,) I pray thee that thou fought for
the christian Knights in fields of purple blood, and made
the enemies of heauen to fawm in the name of Christour
goode. I pray thee that thou givene me still the bosome, graunt
that I may remayne this blissey and unquallie man,
for that thou remayne the office of the blissey knyghtes that
are nowe named, either that thou wold my syde when I
fawme the burning Dragon in Egypte, and when I con-
querre the terrible Giant that kept the incynched Castle
amonge the Amazonians, even to let me accomplish this
and other aduentures. That all christians and christian
knyghtes may applaude thy name, and that thy deuise and
thy quarrell, may still be honespeth with the golden plege
of God, Amen.

So he did. And spent he alway the night in making
supplication to the Creatur, for the happy successe of his
aduentures, whereon he wold be wised by the hand of
his golden Darer, either to retorne a woxlye competer,
or by a fayre knyghte. And when the day began to
dawn, he adorne the Elemente with a purple color, he
summed in his armes, and the bimble in a
blacke chayre, and mounted upon a pitchy coloured
steed, whose heade a bloud-red caputon, in signe of a
dawg and tragical aduenture, his plume of feathers
was like a flame of fire quenchit in bloud and a token of
gryfe triste, his arm'd bimble not with a sturdy
launce, bounde about with plates of brasse, but toke a
smooth mace of steel, the one end barre more shaper then
the points of a nesol, the other end a ball of iron in fayre
and brasse of a club.

Being

the seven Champions.

Being thus arm'd according to his wished desires, hee
twice leuis of the Jew and his seauen Donnes, who sat
arrayed in blacks and mournefull ornaments, prayng for
his happy and fortunate successe: and so departed speedi-
ly to the golden fountaine, where hee found the Giaunt
slapping carelesly bgoyn his blocks of Steele, dreading no in-
suing dangers.

But when the valiant Champion Saint George was
alighted from his horse, and had sufficiently beheld the de-
formed proportion of the Giant: how the hair of his head
did glare & pright like to the blythes of a wilde Boare,
his eyes gazing open like two blaying Comets, his teeth
long and sharpe like to spikes of Steele, the nayles of his
hands like the tallants of an Eagle, yet over them was
waiuen a paire of yron gloves: and oueris other limme
huge and strongly proportioned like to the hode of some
mighty Duke, the worthie Champion awakened him in
this order.

Arise (says he) thou unreasonable deformed monster,
and either make deliuerie of the captiue Knights, whom
thou wrongfullly detaines, or prepare thy ugly selfe to a-
bide the uttermost force of my warlike arme and death-
prepared weapon.

At which words the furious Giant started vp, as one
sodainly amazed or affrighted from his sleepe: and with-
out making anie reply at all, taking his yron Pace fast
in both his hands, he did with great terror let flye at the
most worthie English Champion, who with exceeding
couning nimblenes defended himselfe from certayne dan-
ger by speedie auoyding the blowes violence, and withall
returned on his aduersarie a mighty thrust with the pain-
ted & sharpe ends of his Javelin, which rebounded from
the Giants vodie, as if it had been runne against an Ad-
mantine piller.

The which the invincible Saint George perceiving, he
turned the beaute round ball end of his masse Javeline,

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and so mightly assyled the Giant, rebouling his bea-
vir blowes with such courageous fortitue, that at last he
beate his besnes out of his deformed heare: wherby the
Giant was constraigned to pay for his pess, and to giue
such a hideous roare, as though the whole frame of the
Earth had been shakyn with the violence of some storne of
thunder.

His being done, Saint George cast his loathsome
carcase as a pray for the fowles and rauemous beastes to
feaze vpon: and after he had diligently searched up and
downe, till he found the Rocke wherain all the Knights
and Champions were impisoneyd, the which wryt by
Gyrlie Jauelin he burst in sunder, and delivred them pre-
sently from their servitude, and after returned most tri-
umphantly backe to the Jewes Pavilion, in as great ma-
iestie and roialtie as Valsahan with his Romane Nobles
and Peeres returned into the confynes of flourishing Ia-
lly, from the admired and gloriouse conquest of Ierusalem
and Iudea.

But when the reverend olde Jein sawe the English
champion returned with victorie, together with his other
five fellow champions, and likewise beheld byss fowters
Donnes safelie delivred, his ioy so mightely exceeded the
bounds of reason, that he sodainly swonded, and lay for a
time in a dead traunce, with the exceedingnes of pleasure
he conceyued.

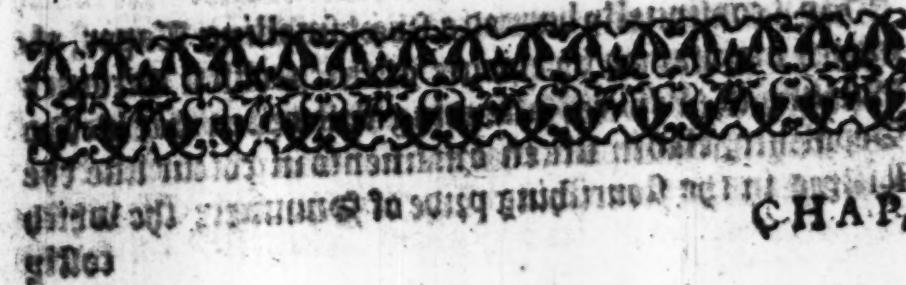
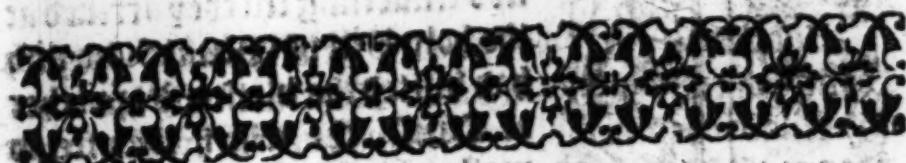
But hauing a little recovered his decayed senses, hee
gladly condonned them into their severall Lodgings, and
there they were presently unarmes, and their woundes
washed in white wine and new milke, and after banque-
fed them in the best manner hee could devise. At which
Banquet there wanted not all the excellencie of musique
that the Jewes learned yonger sonnes could devise, ex-
tolling in their loue sonnets the excellent fortitude of
the English champion, that had not onely delivred their
captained Bxtheren, but restored by that vgly Giants de-
serued

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serued death their aged Father to the repossession of his
golden fountaine.

golden fountaine. Thus after Saint George with the other sire Cham-
pions han sojourned there for the space of thre dages, ha-
ving placed the Jew with his donne in their former de-
fired dignities, that is in the government of the Golden
Fountaine, they cloathed themselves againe in theyr
pilgrymes attyre, and so departed forward on theyr in-
tended Journey to visite the holy Sepulcher of our Sau-
tour Christ.

of whose noble Adventures you shall hear more in the Chapter following.



CHAP.

The second Part of

CHAP. V.

Of the Champions returne from Ierusalem
from the Sepulcher of Christ, and after how
they were almost famished in a wood: and
how saint George obtained them food
by his valour in a Giaunts House with other
things that happened.



He Champions after this never re-
stid travelling till they arrived at
the holly Hill of mount Sion, and
the holly Sepulcher of Christ, the whiche they found
most richly built of þ purest mar-
ble, garnished curiously by cur-
ning Architecturie, with manie
carbuncles of Jasper, and pillows of leate. The Temple
wherin it was erected, stood seauen degrees of staires
within the ground, the gates whereof were of burnisht
golde, and the portalles of refined silver, cut as it dys-
seme out of a most excellent nature beantesed Albla-
ster Kocke.

þt continually burnisht fine of Orelling Tower, al-
sovere garnished by rame of the stedeli shewines
shewling in all fures, shewping well known that hewed
Sepulcher, thin in vilen ornaments in colour like the
Lilles in the flourisshing pride of Summer: þe whiche
cally

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costly attire, they continually weare, as an evident signe
of their unspotted virginities: many daies offred vp these
worthy Champions these ceremonious devotions, to the
sacred Tombe of Christ, washing the marble pauement
with their unsainted teares, and witnessing their true and
heartie psales, with their continual hollyes of discharged
sighes.

But at last vpon an Euening, when Titans golden
beames began to descend the Westerne Elements, as
those Princeley minded Champions in compaie of those
warlike admizyd Maidens, kneeled before the Sepulcher
offering vp their Euening Orizons. an unseene boyce (to
the amazement of them all) from a hollow vault in the
Temple uttered these words.

You magnanymous Knights of Christendome, whose
true nobilitie hath circled the earth vpon the wings of
flame, whose bare feet for the loue of our swet Sauour,
hath set more wearie steps vpon the parched earth, then
there be stars within the golden Cannopy of heauen: re-
turne, returne into the bloodie fields of warre, and spend
not the honour of your times in this ceremonious maner:
for great things by you must bee accomplished, such as
in time to come shall fill large Chronicles, and cause
babes as yet unborne to speake of your honorable atchie-
vements.

And you chaste Maidens that spend your lives in ser-
vice of your God, even by the plighted promise you have
made to true Virginitie, I charge you to furnish round
these warlike Champions with such appuzzed furniture
as hath beeene offered to this blessed Sepulcher, by those
travelling Knights, which haue fought under the Ban-
ner of Christ. This is the pleasure of the Heauen's great
Builder, and this for the redresse of wronged Innocents
on earth must be with all immedeate dispatch forthwith
accomplished.

This unexpedie boyce had no sooner ended, but the

The second Part of

Temple (in their conciues) seemed full strangely fore-sound like the melodye of celestial Angels, or the holy harmonie of the heauenly Rubens, as a signe that the Gods were pleased at their proceedings vpon the twelve Virgins arose from their divine contemplations, and conducted the seauen Champions to the farther side of mount Syon, and there bestowed franklie vpon them, seauen of the brasest Knights that euer they beheld, with Martiall furniture answerable therunto, besetting knyghts of such estreme: then the christian Champions beeing proude of their god fortunes, attyzed them selues in rich and sumptuous corslets, and after mounted vpon their warlike coursers, kindly bidding the Ladies adieu: they betooke them to the worlds wide iourney. This trauell began at that time of the yere, when the Sommeres quene began to spread her beauteous mantis amongst the grene and fresh boughes of the hys and myghtie Cedars, when as all kynge of small birds sicke round about, retreating themselves in the beautie of the day, and with their well tuned notes, making a swete and heauenlye melodye: at that time I say, these myghtie and well esfained knyghts the seauen Champions of Christendome, toke the way from Jerusalem, which they thought to be most vsed: in which they had not many daies travelled through the deserts and curr may a mountaine top, but they were mernailously troubled for lacke of their accustomed and dayly victuals, and could not hide nor dissemble their great hunger, so that the warre which they sustayned with hunger, was farre greater then the battels that they had fought against the enemies of Christ, as you heard discoursed in the first part of this Histoyre.

So vpon a Sommers evening, when they had spent the day in great extremitie, and night grew on, being in a thicket of myghtye trees, where as the climer Moone with her bright beames glistred most cleraly, yet to them it seemed to be as darke as pitch, so they were very sore troubled

the seuen Champions.

troubled for lacke of that which shoulde sustaine them : and their faces did shewe and declare the perplexities of their stomackes.

So they sate them downe vppon the greene and sic the hearbes, very penissue of their extreme necessarie, pescuring to take their restes that night : but all was in vayne, for that their corporall necessities wold not consent ther unto : but without sleeping they walked vp and downe so that night, till the next day in the morning that they turned to their accustomed trauell and iourney, thinking to finde some food for the cherishing of their stomackes, and had their eyes alwayes gazing about, to espye some vilage or house, wherein they might satisfie their hunger and take their restes.

Thus in this helplesse manner spent they alway the next day, till the closing in of the evenings light, by which time they grewe so faint, that they fell to the ground with heblenesse : Oh what a sorowe was it to Saint George, not only for him selfe, but to see the rest of the Champions in such a miserable case, beeing not able to helpe themselves, and so parting a little from them, he lamented in this manier following.

Thou God of Iudea : in whose handes both life and death remaines, and at whose frowns the lowe foundacion of the fastened will tremble and quake : the extra- gious seas swell and rise aboue theyre boundes, the woods and wildernes rore with tempestuous guses, and the fruitfull earth growe barren . Oh pitte mee thou most gratioues God : thou mightiest amongst the pouers of heauen : thou that hast gauen me so many victories : thou that hast made me conqueror of Kinges and kyngdomes : and thou by whose inuincible power I haue ta- med the blacke fasse furyes of darke Colis that mafute abroad the worlde in humaine shapes : loke downe I say from thy Imperiall seate, even by my pilgrimage vnto thy sacred Spine : shewe mee some founes, and doe not

The second Part of

consent that I and my compa[n]ie perish for hunger & want of victuals: make no delay to remedie our great necessitie: let vs not be meat for birds houering in the aire, nor our bodies cast as a pray for rauenous beasts ranging in these woods: but rather if we must needes perish, let vs dy by the hands of the Strongest warriers in the uniuersal world, and not basely to loose our lynes with cowardlye hunger.

These and such like reasons offered this valiaunt Champion of England, till such time as the day appeared and the sable curtaines of coaleblache night were withdrawen. Then returned he to the rest of his Compa[n]ie, where he found them verie weake and feble: but he encouraged them in the best manner he could devise to take their hores, and to tri the chaunce of their vtmost vnkinde fortune.

Although Saint George as they trauelled was readie to dye by the way, and in great confusion of minde: yet rode he first to one then to another, comforting them, and making them ride apace: which they might verie well do, for that their hores were not so vnprouided as they: Masters, by reason of the goodly grasse that grew in those Woods, wherewithat pleasure they filled themselves verie night.

The golden h[or]ne had almost mounted to the top of heauen, and the glazions prime of the daye began to approach, when they came into a great field heris plaine, and in the middest of it was a litle Mountaine, out of the which there appeared a great smoke which gave them to understand that there shold be some habitation in that place.

Then the Prince[m] minded Saint George said to the other Champions: Take comfort with your selues, and by little and little come forward with an easie pace: for I will ride before to see who shal be our boast this ensing night. And of this bragg Knights and Companions, bee all

the fourtij Champions.

be all assured, whether hee be pleasse or no ; yet shall hee
gine vs lodgynge and entertayns vs like to travelling
Knights, and therewithall he set spurres to his horse, and
swifly scowred away like to a ship with swelling sailes
vpon the marble coloured Ocean : his hast was so speedy
that in a shott time he approuched the mountaine, wher
at the furis & rushing of his horse in running, there arose
from the ground a myghtie and terrible Giant, of so great
height, that he seemed to bee a bigge growne tree, and so
hugenes like to a rocke of stonye : but when he cast his sta-
ring eyes vpon the English knight : which seemed like
two brazen plates or two torches ever flaming, he layde
hand vpon a myghtie club of Iron which lay by him, and
came with great lightnesse to mette Saint George, but
when he approuched his presence, he thought him to bee a
Knight but of small valioz and fortitude, he thre w away
his Iron bat, and came towards the champion, intending
with his fistes and buffets to beat out his braines, but the
courage of the English champion so exceeded, that he so-
got the extremity of hunger, for like a couragious knight
he raised himselfe in his stirrops, otherwise hee coulde not
reach his head, and gaue him such a blowe vpon the fore-
head with his keene edged sauchion, that he cut his head
halfe in funder, and his braines in great abundance ran
downe his deformed boode : so that amazd hee fell to the
ground and presently dyed. His fall seemed to make the
ground to shake, as though a stony tower had beene ouer-
turnyd, for as he lay vpon the earth he seemed to bee a great
oake blowne vp by the rootes with a tempestuous whir-
winde.

At that instant the rest of the champions came to that
place, with as much ioy at that present, as before they
were sad and so rotowfull.

But when Saint Denis with the other knights, did see
the greatness of the Giant, and the deformity of his body,
they aduanced his valioz beyond imagination, and bee-

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med him the fortunatest Champion that euer nature fra-
med, holding that adventure in as high honour, as the
Grecians held Iasonis prize when he turned from Co'chos
with Medeas golden ffleiss: and with as great daunger
accomplished as the twelve seafull labours of Hercules:
but after some few speachis passed, Saint George desi-
red the rest of the Champions to go and see what sorte of
victue is the Giant had prepared for them.

Upon this they concluded, and so generally entred the
Giants house, which was in the maner of a great Warre-
tent out of the hard stone, and wrought out of the Rocke:
therein they found a myghtie copper Chaldrone standing
vpon a treaute of steele, the feet and supporters thereof,
were as bigge as great Iron pillars vnder the same bur-
ned such a huge flaming fire, that it sparkled like the fir-
rye Furnace in burning Acharon:

Within the Chaldrone were bopling the fleshe of two
fatte Bullockes, prepared onely for the Giants dinner:
the light of this ensuing banquet gaue them such comfort,
that euer one fell to worke, hoping for their trauel to eat
parte of the meate: one turned the fleshe in the Chaldrone,
another increased the fire; and some pulled out the coales,
so that there was not anye idle in hope of the benefite
to come.

The hunger they had, and their desire to eate, caused
them to fall to their meate befor it was halfe readye as
though that it had bene ouer sodden; but the two knyghts
of Wales and Ireland, not intending to dine without
bread and drinke, searched in a secret hollow cane, wher-
as they found two great loaues of bread, as bigge in com-
passe as the circell of a well, and two great flagons full
of the best Beere that euer they tasted, the which with
great ioye and pleasure, they brought from the caue, to
the great and exceeding contentment of the other Cham-
pions.

In steas of a knyfe to cut their viands, Saint George
bisen

the seuen Champions.

þe to his Gaintlare which lately had bene stayned with
þe hatefull Gaints dædly drowne, and that had þeene im-
þewed with his loathsome braynes.

Thus and after this manner qualifid they the pinch-
ing paines and tormentis of hunger, wherof they tooke
as toysfull a repas as if they had banqueted in þe richeſt
Kings Hallace in the world.

So gowing thankes to heauen for their god and happy
fortunes, þaint George required the Champions to take
horſe, and mounted himself upon his palfrey, and so tra-
velled from thence thowte a narrowe path, which seem-
ed to be used by the Gaint: and so with great diligence
they travellled all the rest of that day, till night had
cloſed in the beautye of the heauens: at which time they
had got to the top of a high mountaine, from whence a lit-
tle before night they did discouer mernaylous great and
playnes, þe which were inhabited with fayre Cities and
townes, at which sight these Christian Champions recei-
ued great contentment and ioy, and so without any stay-
ing, they made hast onwards on their iorney till such tyme
as they came to a lowe hally lying betwixt two running
rivers: where in the midst of the way they found an Im-
age of fine Cristall, the picture & lively forme of a beau-
tiful Virgin, which seemed to be wrought by the handes of
some melle exellent worke-man, all to be spotted with
blood.

And it appeared by the woundes that were cunningly
þornd in the same picture, þat it was the image of some
Lady that had suffred tormentis, aswell with terrible cut-
tings of þrons, as with cruel whippings: þe Ladie's legs
and armes did seeme as though they had þeene martyred
and hewnde with couers: and about the necke, as though
she had þeene soðeably strangled with a napkin or tow-
ell: the cristall Picture laye upon a rich adorneed bed of
blacke cloathes vnder an arbor of purple Roses: by the
curious faire formed Image, sate a godly aged man in a
chaire

The second Part of

chaire of cypresse wood, his attire was after the manner of the Arcadian sheap-heards not curious but comely, yet of a blacke and sable colour, as a sure signe of some deadly discontent, his hayze hung downe belewe his shoulders, like vntwisted stike, in whitenes like doonne of thistles, his beard ouer growne dangling downe, as it were frozen sickles vpon a hauthorne tree, his face wrinkled and overworn with age and his eyes almost blind in bewraying the greces and sorowes of his heart.

Whiche strange and sowlefull spectacle, when the christians championis vigilantly behelde, they coulde not by any manner of meane s restraine from shedding some sorowfull teares, in seeing before them that a woman of suche excellent beautie should be opprest with cruelty. But the pittifull English Knight had the greatest compassion, when he behelde the countefeyt of this tormented creature, who taking truce with his sorowfull heart, he curtrously desired the olde Father, sitting by this spectacle, the cause of his sorow, and the true discourse of that maidens passed fortunes: for whose sake hee seemed to spend his daies in that solitary order, to whome the olde man with a number of sighes thus kindly replied, braue knyghtes, for so you seeme by your curtisies and behauours, to tell the storie of my bitter woes, and the causer of my endles sorowes, will constraine a spring of teares to trickle from the Conduits of my aged eyes, and make the mansion of my heart to stue in twaine, in remembryng of my vndeserued miseries: as many drops of bloud hath fallen from my heart as there be siluer haires upon my head, and as many sighes haue I strained from my brest as there be minutes in a yere, for thrice seven hundred times the mornings dew hath met my siluer hayzes, and thise seven hundred times the winters frost hath nipt the mountains tops since first I made these ruful lamentacions, during all which time I haue set before this christall Image, howerly praying that some curteous knight

the seuen Champions.

Knights would be so knde: as to ayde me in my boyled re-
venge, and now so faine I see hath smild vpon me, in syn-
ding you hether to work a iust cenenge for the inhumane
smarther of my daughter, whose perfect Image lyeth here
carued in the Chastall, as the continuall obiecte of my
griefe: and because you shall understand the true discouer-
y of her tymeles Tragidie, I haue writte that downe in a
paper booke with mine owne blood, the which my saint-
full tongue is not able to reveale, and thereupon hee pul-
led from his besome a golden couered booke with siluer
claspes, and requested Saint George to read it to the rest
of the knights, to which he willingly condescended, so sit-
ting downe amongst the other Champions vpon the
greene springing grasse, hee opened the bloody written
booke and read over the contents, which contained these
sorrowful wordes following.

The second Part of



CHAP. VI. of the second Part of
What hapned to the Champions, after
they ha

I found an Image of fine Cristall, in
the forme of a murthered Mayden: where
Saint George had a golden Booke given him,
wherein was written in blood, the true Tra-
gedies of two Sisters: and likewise how the
Champions intended a speedy reuenge vpon
the Knight of the blacke Castle, for the deaths
of the two Ladies.

Whilste Fortune
smilid upon me, I was a welthe
Shapheare, dwelinge in this un-
happye Countrye, not onely held
in great estimation for my welthe,
but also for two faire Daughters
which nature had mad most excel-
lent in beautie: in whome I toke
such exceeding ioy & delight, that
I accounted them my chiefest happiness: but yet in the
end, that which I thought should most content me, was
the occasion of this my endles sorowes.

My two Daughters (as I said before) were endued
with wonderfull beauty, and accompanied with no lesse
honestie:

the seuen Champions.

homelie r the same of whose virtus was so blazed into
many partes of the worlde: by reason whereof, there re-
payred to my Sheepheards Cottage, dinges Strange and
wo:thye Knights, with greate desire to marrie with my
Daughters. But aboue them all, there was one named
Leoger, the knight of the blacke Castle (wherein he now
remayneth) beeing in distance from this place some two
hundreth leagues, in an Island incompassed with the sea.

This Leoger I say, being so entrapped with the beau-
tē of my Daughters, that he desired me to give him one
of them in mariage: but yttile mistrusting his treason
and crueltie that after followed, but rather considering
the grāte hono: that myne rebounde therof, so: that he
was a worthy knight and of much fortitude: I quickly
fullfilled his desire, and graunted to him my eldest Daugh-
ter in mariage: where after that Himes holy rites were
administred in great pompe and state she was conducted in
company of her new weddēd Lord, to the blacke Castle,
more like a Prince in estate then a sheepheards daugh-
ter of such degrēe.

But yet still I retained in my company the youngest,
beeing of farre more deautie then her elder Sister: of
which, this trayterous and unnatural knight was infor-
med, and her surpassing beaute so exalteo, that in a small
time he for got his new maried wife, and sweet compa-
ny, and libolly surrendered himselfe to her loue, without
consideration that he had maried her other sister. So this
disordinate and lustful loue, kindled and increased in him
every day more and more, and hee was so troubled with
this new desire, that he dayly deuised with himselfe by
what meanes he might obtaine her, and keepe her in di-
spite of all the Worlde: in the end he vscd this policie and
deceipt to get her home into his Castle, for when the tyme
grewe on that my eldest daughter his wife shoulde bce
delivered, hee came in great pompe with a stately traime
of followers to my cottage, and certifieid me that his wife

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was delitered of a goodly boy, and therupon requesteſſ
me with verry faire and loving wordes, that I woulde let
my daughter goz unto her ſitter, to giue her that content-
ment whiche ſhe deſired, for ſhee did loue her more deare
then her owne ſoule: Thus his crafte and ſubtil perwa-
tions ſo much preuailed, that I coulde not ſceme any ex-
cuse to the contrarie, but muſte needes conſent to his de-
maund, ſo ſtraight way when hee had in his power, that
whiche his ſoule ſo much deſired, hee preſently deparcked,
giuing me to understand that hee woulde carry her to hys
Iuife, for whiche ſight ſhe had ſo much deſired, and at whiche
conuincing ſhe woulde receive great ioy, and contentment,
her ſodaine departure breed ſuch ſorrow in my heart (being
the onely comfort and stay of my declyned age) that the
fountaines of my eyes rained doþane a ſhower of salt
teares upon my aged brest, ſo deare is the loue of a ſather
unto his child: but to be ſhort, when this luſtfull minded
catiffe with his pompons traine came in ſight of his Ca-
ſtle, he commaunded his compaニー to ride forwärds that
with my daughter hee might ſecretly conſerte of ſerious
matters, and ſo ſcāide hingring behinde, till hee ſaw his
company almoſt out of ſight, and they two alone together,
he found oþportunity to accompliſh his luſtfull deſires, and
ſo rode into a little grove, whiche was hard at hande, cloſe
by a riuers ſide, where without any moze taryng he ca-
ried her into the thickeſt part thereof, where he thought
it moſt conuenient to perorme ſo wicked a deede.

When he behelde the brancheſ of the thicke treeſ to
withholde the light of heauen from them, and that it ſe-
med a place ouerſped with the ſable mantles of night,
he alighted from his horſe, and willed my welbeloued
daughter that ſhee ſhould likewiſe alight: ſhee in whoſ
heart raigneſ no kinde of ſuſpition, preſently alighted,
and ſat her dauons by the riuers ſide, and wafed her
faire white handeſ in the ſtreames, and refreſhed her
mouth with the chyſtall waſers.

Then

the Seven Champions.

Then this detestable Traitor coulde no longer re-
staine, but with a countenance like the lustfull King of
Thrace when he intended the ransumement of Progne, or
like Tarquinius of Roane when he deflowered Lucrecia, he
let her understand by some outward shewes, and darke
sentences, the kindled fire of loue that burned in his hart:
and in the end he did inholde declare his devillish pretence
and determined purpose.

Ho my louing daughter being troubled in minde with
his lustfull assaylements, beganne in manner to repre-
hend him, will you (saide she deside my sisters bedde, and
staine the honore of your house with lust: will you bereave
me of that precious jewel, the which I holde more deare
then my life, and blot my true Virginitie with your
false desires: brought you me from the comfortable sight
of my Father, to bee a joynto my brother, and will you
dosth in the spoile of my true chaste? loue, loue, imode-
rate I anight, (I will not call thee brother) loue I say how
the heauens doe blush at thy attempts, and see how chaste
Diana sitts upon the winged firmaments, and threatens
vengeance for her Virgins sake: mische from thy heart
these lustfull thoughts with shewers of thy repentant
teares and seek not thus to wrong thy mariage bed, the
which thou oughtst not to violate for all the kingdomes in
the world.

Then this accursed Knight, seeing the chaste and war-
ious maiden, to stand so boldely in the defence of her Vir-
ginitie, with his rigorus hand hee tooke fast holde by her
necke, and with a wrathfull countenance hee deliuered
these wordes: do not think stubben damsel to preseue thy
hono: from the staine of my deires, for I sweare by the
christall Towers of Heaven, either to accomplish my in-
tent, or put thee onto the cruellest death that euer was de-
vised for anye damsell or maid: at which wordes, the
most sorrowfull and distressed Virgin, with a shewer
of pearled teares, trickling downe her hemely blushing:

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egrees, repugnat this order. Think not false Tray-
tor (quoth he) that feare of death shall cause me to yeld
so by fleshy desires: no, no, I will attempt that stroak
schemers happy, into more welcome to my soule, then the
soules of the dead: then night I walke in the Elizian
fields among those saintes that dyed true virgins, and
here I shal the blisse of my marydens glory, with crede
with the nypping frostes of the diuinall deuices.

These woordes being well thiderwoode by the lustfull
knights who with a countenance more furious then the
savage Lyons in the deserts of Libya, tooke her by the
fleshe waste, and rigorously dash her body against the
ground, and therto shall speake these woordes. Under-
stand also he, and be well perwaved, thou unrelenting
dauncy, that either halfe or dead, I will perforne my
will and pertaine purpote: for in my hart corre burnes
a fire that all the water in the seas can never quench,
nor all the dyring clouds of heauen, if they shold drop
everlastyngers of raine: but it is the water of thy Swet
Virginitie that must quench my furious burninge soule:
and theretyp on in a madnes he cut off a great part of the
fraine of her gowne, and bound it very fast to the bayre
of her heade, which glittered like to golden wyrts, and
dragged up and downe the ground till the greene grasse
turned to a purple colur, with the bloud that issued from
her body: by which craultie he thought to inforce her to
hys pleasure, but the respecting not his wicked craultie,
and the moxe he procured to torment her, the moxe car-
nestly she defended her hono.

Wher in this cruell and inhumaine monstre, saw that
wether his flatteryng speeches, nor his cruell threatnes
were of sufficiencie to prouide, hee begann to forget all
faith and loyaltye he bought unto the hono of knighthood,
and the respect he shold beare unto women blinde, but
blasphemed against heauen, and tearing her cloathes al
to peeces, hee stripped her stark naked, and with the
raynes

the Seven Champions.

harnes of the hable of his horse, he cruelly whipp'd and scourged her white and tender haire, that it was full of blewes spotes, and horriblie scurles of blacke and scuttled bloud, with such extrame crueltie that it was a very greevous and sorrowfull sight to beholde. And yet this did profite him nothing at all, for she continued in her former resolution.

He seeing that she still penseuerd in the defence of her honor, he straight walcs like a bloudy monster, he aped crueltie vpon her: then he tooke and bound her wel prepositioned legs and christeline armes, groughly unto a withered tree (saying). Oh cruel and more cruell, then any woman in all the world hath ever binne: Why dost thou suffer thy selfe to bee thus tormentyd, and not give consent to procure my ease? Dost thou thinke it better to indure this martredome, then to live a mōre loving, smōte and contented life? and therewithall his anger so increased that he stood staring on her face with his ac-
cu. sed eyes, fixed in such sort that he could not withdraw them backe.

The which being perswaid by this distressed Virgin, as one farre more devious of death then of life, with a furiouse voyce she said: Oh thou traitor, thou wicked mon-
ster, thou bitter enemy to all humānitie, thou shamelesse creature, more cruell then the Lyons in the desernes of Horcania: thou statne of knighthod and the bloudiest wretches that euer nature framid in the worlde, wherein dost thou contemplaye thus thy selfe? thou fleshly butcher, thou vainerfull Tyger, thou lecherous hogge, and dishonorer of thy progenie: make an end (I say) of these my tormentes, for it is now too late to repente thee, goe my blisportes brest with thy bloody weapon, and send my soule into the bowesse of Diana, whom I behold sitting in the celestiall pallace of heauen, accompanied with numberlesse troopes of vortal Virgins, ready to entertaine my blisfull goastr into her glōtous mansion.

20. 13.
Elys

The second Part of

This unpitifull knight seeing the desolation that
she had in the defence of her honor, with a cruell and
internall heart he tooke a silken scarfe which the Dams-
sell had girded at her waiste, and with a brutall anger
doubled it about her necke, and pinched it so straignt
that her soule departed from her terrestriall body.

O you valiant Knights that by your Prowes
comes to the reading of this dismal Tragidie,
and comes to the hearing of these bloody
lines, contained in this golden booke: consider
the great constancie and chastite of this
unfortunate maiden, and let the griefe there-
of moue you to take vengeance of this cru-
elie shewed without any desert.

So when this internall minded knight sawe that she
was dead, he tooke his horse and rode after his company,
and in a short time he once tooke them, and looked with so
fierous and grevfull a countenance, that there was none
durst be so hardy to aske him where my daughter was,
but one of his Squiers that bare me great affection for the
kindnes and curteisie I offended to him at his Ladys
and my daughters nuptials, having a suspition by the
great alteration that appeared in his manner; and being
very desirous to know what was become of the damsell
so that he came alone without bringing the Damsell
with him, neyther could he have any sight of her;
he then presently withdrawe himselfe backe, and fol-
lowing the footings of the horse, hee ceaseth not untill hee
cometh to the place where this crueltie was wrought,
whereas he found the maiden dead, at the place whereof

the seuen Champions.

He remained almost beside himselfe, in such sorte that hee had almost fallen to the ground: The sorrowfull Squire remained a good whyle before he could speake, but at last when he came againe to himselfe, he began with a dolorous complaint, crying out against the gods and fortune, because they had suffered so great a crueltie to be committed upon this damsel.

And making this sorrowfull lamentation, he unlased her from the tree, and layd her naked body vpon part of her apparell, the which hee found lying by, all besmeare'd in blood, and afterwarde complained in this pitifull sort.

My cruell Knight (quoth he) what an infernall hart remained in thy breast, or what hellish furie did heare thee company that thy hands hath committed this inhumane sacrifice? Was it not sufficient that this her sumounted beauty might haue moued the to pitty, when it is of powerto moue the bloody Camihal to remorse, and constraine the savage monsters to relent? so with these and other like sorrowfull words that the wofull Squire spake vnto the dead corpes; he cut downe branches from the trees, and gathered grasse from the ground so to cover the body, and left it lying so, that it seemed to be a mountaine of greene grasse, or a thicket of springing trees, and then determined with himselfe in the best manner that he could, to dissemble the knowledge of the bloody facte, hee tooke his horse and went the way towards the Castle, in which hee rode so fast that he ouertooke the Knight and his compaines at the entryng of the gates, whereas the lustfull tyrant alighted, and without speaking to any person, he entred into his closet, by reason wherof, this kinde and curteous Squire had time to declare all things hee had sene to the new married Lady, and the dolorous end of the constant Damsell her sister. This soddaine and unlooked for sorrowe mixed with anger and wroath, was such in the Lady that shee caused the Squire not to depart from

The second Part of

the Castle, until such time as mine occasion serued; and to keepe all thinges in secret that he had seene, and she her selfe remayned, making martiall and great armamenta-
tions to her selfe all in secret, for that she would not be per-
ceaved, yet with a soft voyce she said, my lord, in this place and

Oh unforunatke Lady, boynge in a sorowfull houze,
when some blazing and unluckie Comette rayned; oh
unhappie Desernes, that made me wiste unto so cruell a
knight, whose soule misdeedes hath mad the verye Cle-
ments to blush, but yet I know that fortune will not be
so far unkinde, but that she will procure to take a strange
reuenge vpon his purple-stayned soule: oh yet immortall
Gods, reuengement on this wicked homicide: if not, I do
swear that I will with mine owne hands put in practise
such an enterprize, and so staine my unspotted heart with
wilful murder, that all the Gods aboue and all the bright
celestiall potencies of heauen, shall looke from their innumera-
ble Palace and tremble at the terror of my hate.

Thus being said she took in her hand a Dagger of the
knightes, and in her arme her younge sonnes, being but
of the age of sixteyn yeres (saying) unto me I wish so much
swlpe unto this knyde, that I will not leaue the soule of so
wicked a father alane, but I will wash my hands in their
accursed blodes, if they were in number thkinge Prians
children, and so in this irefull order entred she the chamb-
rer where the knyght her husband was, and finding him
tumbling vpon his bed from the one side to the other, with-
out taking any rest, but in his surys renting and tearing
the silken Mementes, with a sorowfull weeping and
terrible voyce she calld him Traitor, and like a fierce
Tigresse, with the Dagger that she brought in her hand,
before his face she cut the throat of the iniuriant Huberd, and
thruste it so farr on the bed, and therewithal said: take
there (then cruel Traitor) the scuite that thy wicked seed
created in my bosome, and then therewise she the Dagger
after him in hope to haue killed hym, but Fyldam wold
not

the seuen Champions.

not that it shoulde take effecte, for it stroke against the fetherne of the bed, and rebounded backe vnto her handes, which when the Lady sawe that it nothing preuayled, she returned vppon her selfe her outragious furie: so taking the bloody Dagger she thrust it to her heart, in such sorte, that it parled it into two peices, and so she fell downe dead betwixt his armes, that was the occasion of all this bloody crueltie.

The great sorow that this false and unhappy knight receyved was so strange, that he knewe not what counsell to take: but thinking vpon a seuerall vngentleesse that might succede these cruell ailes, he straight wayes procureed that the body of the Lady, shoulde be secretly buriyed, which beeing doone by hym selfe in the sabbell tyme of the night, in a solitarie garden vnder his castle-wall, where he heard a hollowe booyce breath from the nippell bowles of the earth, these maner of speches following.

That for the bloody face which he so lately had committed, his lyfe dyde here to a shamefull end: and that his Castle with all his treasure therein, shoulde be destroyed or fall into the handes of him whose Daughters he had so cruelly murthred.

After this, he determined to use a secret policie: which was, to set watch and warte in every passage thare vnto his Castle, and to arrest all such travellers, as by aduenture landed vpon that Island, not suffering them to passe vntil such time as they had promised hym by oath to abyde and assist hym euuen vnto death, against all his enemies:

In the meane tyme the afores named Squire which had seene and heard all the tragicall dealings that hath beene here declared, in the best wise he could, returned againe vnto my cottage & tolde me all that you haue heard, which was vnto me very sorrowful and heauy newes: judge here then gentle knyghtes and ye beholders of this wroth ful tragedie, what sorow I unfortunate wretch sustaine, and what angewish I received: so, at the hearing therof, I fell into a

The second Part of

Let ſaude, and being come againe unto my ſelue, I alit to
be ſnear' o my milk white hayre in dust, that before were
as cleare as the tryed ſiluer, and with my teares being
the true ſougs of ſorrow, I bathed the boſome of my mo-
ther earth, and ſighes poffed with ſuch abundance from
my tormented heart, that they ſtaine the paſſage of my
ſpeach, and my tongue could not retale the grife that
my wofull thoughts conceiued.

In this dambre ſilence and ſorrow of minde I remai-
ned three daies and three nightes, numbing my ſilent
passions with the minutes of the day, and my mightie
grieſes, with the ſtarres of heauen, when froſtie bearded
winter bath cladde the elements with twinkling Dia-
mons; but at laſt, when my amazed grieſes were ſome-
thing abated, my eyes (almost blind with weeping) re-
quired ſome ſleepe thereby to mitigate the ſorrows of my
heart: I making repaſſe into a pleaſant medow in ad-
ioyning neare unto my cottage, where amongſt the green
ſprunging downes I purpoſed to take ſome reſt, and to
locke by the cloſets of my tearefull eyes with golden
ſlumber, thinking it to be the greateſt content my ſob-
bing heart required: But before I could ſettle my ſences
to a quiet ſleepe, I was conſtrained to breath this wofull
lamentation from my oppreſſed ſoule: O unhappy
chance (quoth I) O eneill fortune: why diſt thou not
make me paſſe this bitter and ſorrowful life in my chil-
hood, or why did not the heauens permitt and ſuffer me
to be ſtrangled in my mothers womb, or to haue periſ-
hed in my cradle, or at my nurſies puppethad my heart
never ſelt this ſorrowe, my cares never heard the mur-
ther of my children, nor mine eyes never to haue wept ſo
many helpleſſe teares.

O you mountaines, you untamed beaſtis: O you
deere beaſt, you iuſtfull heauenes, and you powers of re-
uengefull hell: come all I ſay and willinglie allſt mee
in this mortall tragedie, that thofe my aged handes
which

the Scotti Champions.

which never yet pauid any man's crime, may now be
stainde in his accursed blood, that bath bereau'd me of
the prop and stay of declin'd age, my daughters (I mean)
whose bleeding goades will never bee appeas'd, nev're
uer sleep in quiet upon the joyful bankes of Elizian fields,
but wander up and downe the woodes, filling eache
corner of the earth with fearefull clamors of murder
and revenge, nor never shall the storie of my angry scorne
bee pacisled, untill my eyes beholde a freame of purple
goze run trickling from the detestable brest of that accu-
sed rauisher, and that the blood may issue from his guiltie
heart like a fountaine with a hundred springes, where-
by the pavements of his Castle may be sprinckled with
the same, and the walls of his Turrettes colozed with a
crimson behulke to the Grottes of Troy, when as her chas-
nels ran with bloud at the end of this sorowfull lamenta-
tion, what sor griefe, and what sor want of natural rest,
my eyes closed together and my senses fell into a heavy
sleepe.

But as I say: slumbering in the greene meadowes, I
dreamed that there was a great and fierce wilde man,
which stood before me with a sharp sauhion in his hand,
making as though he wold kill me, whereat me thought
I was so frighted, that I gane (in my troublesome dreams)
many terrible shrekes, calling for succour to the emptie
ayre. Then me thought there apperred before my face
a company of courteous knyghtes, which saide unto mee,
sche not old man, for we be come from the soules of thy
daughters to aise and sacour the, but yet so: all this, the
wilde man vanished not awaie, but stroke with his sauhion
an tappoun my brest, whereat it s med to open, and hewe
that the wilde centaure put his hande into the wounde
and pulled out my heart, so straightat the same in-
stant mee thought that one of the knyghtes lykewijs
layde hold upon my hart, and stroue together with much
contencion who shoud pull it from the others handes,

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but in the end cast of them removeth with a piece in his
hand, and my helme spaketh further to this effect
(v) Which the piece whiche remained in the wylde mans
potereturceth into a charme, and the piece whiche re-
maineth in the potereturceth into a knyght, conuerteth into redde
Cloud, and so they vanisched away. CXXVII
111. When I came alight after this there appeared before my
eye the image of my duchesse daughter in the selfe
fayre maner and somwhat you beheld her here portray-
ed who with a natuall woonerall beaute in bloud, re-
posed unto me the true bridle of her onapple hoy-
tunes, and tolde me in what place, and where her body
lay in the woods disployed for want of buriall; also de-
siringe me not of my selfe to attempt the retrengement, soz
it was impossible, but to intombe her corps by her mo-
ther and cause the picture of her body to be made there by
portraire and wrought of fine chytrall in the same man-
ner that I found it in the woods, and after her to bring
vnto a common passage, where aduenturous knyghts do
natually travaille. Also assuring me that whether shoulde
come certame chyrtal championis that shoulde retayne
my knyghtes and remayne with them. CXXVIII
112. Whiche words being finished, me thought the vanisched
away, with a gracious and beaute grone, leaing be-
hind her certame droppes of bloud sprinkled upon the
gronell of my rost, with grete purplesse and moze. To
row I awaked daching dreame, bearing it in my gree-
vous mynde, not reuealing it, not so much as to the blythe
kyng, but with all expedition perfitlyng her blouding
tounes require. CXXIX
113. And you wyl say I am mad, CXXX
Swtch have certame thowtuous and noble knyghts,
Whiche haue inhereted her uninteruery deauly and my
happie joyne, spending the tyme in writing her blosful
tragedy in bloud red lynes, the whiche I knowe to your
great griesse, you haue read in this book of gold.

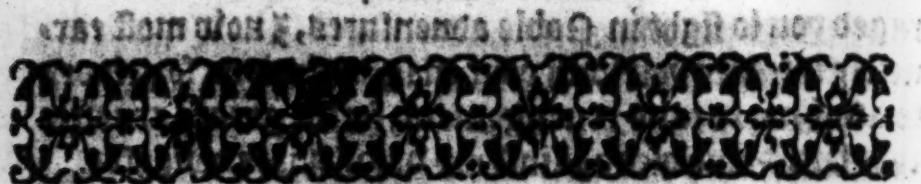
Therefore most courteous knight if ever honor incom-

the fallen Champions!

raged you to fight in Noble adventures, I now most earnestly intreate you with your magnanimitous countenes to affill me to take revengement, for the greare crueltie that hath binne shewed against my damoiselle daughter. At the reading of this sorrowfull historie, Saint George with the other Champions did shew many feares, wherewith there did increase in the a further desire of revenge, and being issued with great compassion, they professed by their promises made to the honor of knighthood, to perseruer speedily on their dowed reuenge and determined purpose: also calling hem to be witness to their plighted oathes, professing that sooner shoulde the liues of all the famous Romaines bee raised from death from the time of Romulus to Cesar, and all the rest dath this time, thereto be perswaded to returne from their purposis, and never to frapell backe into Christendome till they had performed their bothes; and thus burning with desire, to see the end of this sorrowfull aduenture: Saint George clapped vp the bloody written booke, and gane it againe to the Shepheard, and so they proceeded forwaerts towards the land wherin the knyght of the blacke Castle had his residence, guided onely by the direction of he dy man, whose aged limbes fained solitury in travailing that it prognosticated a luckie event: In which iorney wee will leaue the Champions for a time, with the wonderfull prediction that the knyght of the blacke Castle made in his desynges the successe wherof will be the strangest that euer was reported, and returne and speake of Saint Georges thre sonnes in the persuite of their Father wherethe left them (as you heard before) travailing from the Cotesies of Barbarie, wherin they redemeid the Normaine Lady from the Calyghty Domesdaye that had

CHAP.

The second Part of



CHAP. VI.
A wonderfull and strange aduenture that
hapned to Saint George his Sonnes, in the
persuite of their Father, by finding certaine
droppes of bloud, with Virgins hayre scat-
tered in the fieldes, and how they were cer-
tified of the iniurious dealing of the Knight
of the blacke Castle, against the Queene of
Armenia.



England dangerous betwix the ad-
uentures of the three valiant
Princes in the persuite of their fa-
ther Saint George, and many
were the Countries, plants, and
speltes Temps, that they search-
ed to obtaine a full sight of his
martiall countenaunce, but all to
small purpose; insomuch neither
call them happy upon that count, where be with his fa-
mous Champion had their resibnes, ungluckly sound-
ed in their ears the places of their accounts.

In which persuite I omit and passe over many noble
aduentures that these three Princes attchued, as well by
on the raging oceans as upon the firme Land, and wholie
miswiche bypon an accident that hapned to them in an
Iland

the seven Champions.

land bordering upon the confines of Armenia, nere unto the land where the Knight of the blacke Castle remained as you heard in the last Chapter, upon which count after they were arrived, they travelled in a broad and straight path untill such time as they came to a verie faire and delectable forrest, where as sundry chirping birdes had gathered themselves together, to refreshe and shew themselves from the parching heat of the golden Sunne; filling the ayre with the pleasures of their siluer tuns notes.

In this Forrest they travellled almost thre houers, and then they went up to a small mountaine which was at hand, from the which they discouered verie faire and well towred townes with princely pallaces verie sumptuous to behold: Likewise they discoured from the Hill a fayre fountaine brought all of marble like unto a pillars buttal which did proceede fourte spouts running with water, which fell into a great Cestorne, and comming to it they washed their handes and refresched their faces, and so departed.

After they looked round about them on every side, and toward their right handes they espied among the company of greene trees, a small Tent of blacke cloth, towards which these yong Princes directed their courses with an easie pace, but when they had entered the Tent, and sawe no body therin, they remained silent a while, darrning if they could heare any thing, but onely they found the print of certain little feete upon the sande, which caused them more earnestly to desire to knowe whose soote steps they were, so that they seemed to be of some Ladies of Damask: so finding the trace they followed theago the more the Knights followed, the more the Ladies seemed to haue so long perisched after the trace, that at the end they appoynted a little mountaine wher as they found scattered about certaine lockes of yellowe haire, which seemed to be thayles of

The second Part of

goide, and stooping to gather them vp, they perceiued that some of them were wet with spots of bloud, whereby they moe (understood) that in great anger they were pulled from some il aduers head: whiche they saw in divers places how the earth was spattered with bloud of crimson vnde: then with a moe vnsaide then they had before, they went vp to the top of that little mountaine, and having lost the stote steps, they recouered it againe by gathering vp the hayre, whiche they had not traueled far vp the mountaine, but to wards the waters side they heard a greuous complaint, whiche seemed to be the voice of a woman in great distresse, and the wordes whiche the knyghts vs dverilland were these: O loue, now shal thou no more rejoyce nor haue a ny longer dominion vpon me, for death I see is ready to cut mythe iuste life and finishe these my sorrowful lamentations hys chayre with I will be hys judgement at the pouers of heauen agayn that knyght whiche hath bene the causer of my banishment, but yet they will not hear my request: how oft haue I made my sad complaints to hell? yet hath the fatal sturis stopt their eares against my woful cryes. And with this she held her peace, givynge a so so woful stghe: whiche being done, the thre christian knyghts turned their eyes to the place from whence they heard this complaint, and vnsaide amongst certayne greene trees a Ladie who was endowid with singular beautie, being so excellent that it almoste depayned them of their harts to captivated their sensers in the snares of loue, whiche libertie as yet they never lost: she had her haire about her eares, whiche hung de fusedly downe her countrey sholders, though the violence she vsed against her selfe, and leaning her chayre upon her delicate white hand that was strowed with spots of bloud, whiche was constraint by the knyghts of her knyghts upon her blode colored face: her haire was of a vncouert whiche they coniecture to be her countrey: for the knyghts in her gyn colored silk, moe subtiler then the lilles of the field: and as pleasant to beholde as the gilding upon a cleare

the seuen Champions.

clear winters freezing night; yet for all this delectable sight, the thre princly knyghts wold not discouer the selues but stood closely behinde the thre pine trees which grew neare unto the mountaine to heare the cuent of this accident, but as they stood cloaked in silence, they heard her thus to conser with her beaultiful daughter. Oh my Rosana (quoth she) the unhappy figure of him, that without pitty hath wounded my heart and left me comfortles with the greatest cruellty that euer knyght or gentleman left Lady; how hath it been possible that I haue had the force to bring vp the child of such a fathur which hath bereaued me of my libertie: O you soueraigne gods of heauen, grant y^e I may establish in my minde the remembraunce of the loue of thy adulterous fathur: oh girle borne to a further griefe, heere doe I desire the guider of thy fortunis, that thy glistering beaultie may haue such force and power, whereby the shining beames thereof may take revengement of the dishonor of thy mother: give care deare childe I say unto thy dying mother, thou that art born in the dishonor of thy generation, by the losse of my virginity, heere doe I charge thee upon my blessing, euent at my house of death, I swear the by the onnipotencie God of heauen, never to suffer thy beaulty to be chyoyd by any one, vntill thy disloyal fathur's heade bee offered vp in a sacrifice vnto my grane, thereby somewhat to appease the furie of my discontented soule, and recover part of my former glorie.

These and such like wordes spake this afflicted quene, to the wonderfull amazement of the thre young knyghts, which as yet intended not to discouer themselfes, but to marke the euent, for they conjectured that her woful complaints were the induction of some strange accident: Thus as they stood obscurely behinde the trees, they sawe the young and beaultiful Damself giv^e unto her dying mother, paper, penne and Inke, the which shee pulled from her Iuorie bosome, wherewith the greued quene subscriv^ed certain sorrowful lynes but hym y^e was

The Second Part of

CHAP. VI.

A wonderfull and strange aduentnre that hapned to Saint George his Sonnes, in the persute of their Father, by finding certaine droppes of bloud, with Virgins hayre scattered in the fieldes, and how they were certified of the iniurious dealing of the Knight of the blacke Castle against the Queenes of Armenia.

Many and dangerous were the aduentures of the three valiant Princes in the persute of their father Saint George, and many were the Countries, Islands, and Princes Courts, that they searched to obtaine a wished sight of his martiall countenance, but all to small purpose, for fortune neither cast them happilly vpon that coast, where he with his famous Champions had their residence, nor luckily sounded in their ears the pl. of their arrivals.

In whichpersute I omit and passe ouer many Noble aduentures that these three Princes atchived, as well vp on the raging oceans as vpon the firme Land, and wholie discourse vpon an accident that hapned to them in an Island

the seuen Champions.

Land bordering upon the confines of Armenia, neere unto the land whers the Knight of the blacke Castle remained as you heard in the last Chapter, vpon which coast after they were arrived, they trauelled in a broad and straight path vntill such time as they came to a verie faire and delectable forrest, where as sundry chirping birdes had gathered themselves together, to refreshe and shrowd themselves from the parching heat of the golden Sunne; filling the ayre with the pleasures of their siluer tuned notes.

In this forrest they trauelled almost two houers, and then they went vp to a small mountain which was at hand, from the which they discouered very faire and wal towered townes with Princeely pallaces very sumptuous to behold: likewise they discouered from the Hill a faire fountaine wrought all of marble like vnto a Pilier, out of which did procede four spoutes running with water, which fell into a great Cestorne, and comming to it they washed their handes and refresched their faces, and so departed.

After they looked round about them on every side, and toward their right handes they espied amoungst a company of greene trees, a small Tent of blacke cloth, towards which these yong Princes directed their courses with an easie pace, but when they had entred the Tent, and sawe no bodie therin, they remained silent a while, harkning if they could heare any thing, but they could neither see nor heare any thing, but onely they found the print of certain little feete vpon the same, which caused them more car- nelly to desire to knowe whose soote steps they were, for that they seemed to be of some Ladies or Damisels: so finding the trace they followed the way the more the Knights followed, the more the Ladies seemed to haue: so long they pursued after the trace, that at the end they approuched a little mountain wheras they found scattered about, cer- taine lockes of yellow haire, which seemed to be thries of

The second Part of

golde, and stooping to gither them vp, they perceiued that some of them were wet with spots of blood, whereby they well understand, that in great anger they were pulled from some Ladie's head: likwise they saw in divers placees how the earth was spotted with dappes of crimson blod: their with a moxe velle then they had before, they went vp to the top of that little mountaine, and having lost the steepestes, they recoured it againe by gathering vp the hayre, where they had not trauele'd far vp the mountaine, but to wards the waters side they heard a greevous complaint, which seemed to be the voice of a woman in great distresse, and the wonderes which the knyghts did vnderstand were these: O loue, now shalt thou no more reioyce nor haue any longer dominion ouer me, for death I see is ready to cut mytheis of life and shalish these my sorrowful lamentations howe ev'ry hau' I askt reuengement at the pouers of heauen against that wicked wretch that hath bene the causer of my banishment, but yet they will not hear my request: how ofte haue I made my sad complaints to hell? yet hath the fataill furies stopt their eares against my woful cryes. And with this she held her peace, giving a sorrowful sighe: which being done, the thre christian knyghts turned their eyes to the place from whence they heard this complaint, and discouered amongst certaine grane trees a Lady who was endow'd with singuler beautie, being so excellent that it almost deuin'd them of their harts & captivated their lentes in the snare of loue, which libertie as yet they never lost: she had her haire about her eares, which hung defusedly downe her comely sholders, through the violence she used against her selfe, and leaning her cheeke vpon her delicate white hand that was alio to be spotted with blood, which was constrain'd by the scratchings of her nalles vpon her Rose colored face: by her stood another damsel which they conjectured to be her daughter, for she was clad in virgin colored silk more whiter then the lillyes of the fletas: and as pleasante to beholde as the glistening eyrie in a

clear

the seuen Champions.

cleare winters freezing night: yet for all this delectable sight, the thre princly knyghts wold not discouer theselues but stood closely behinde the thre pine trees which grew neare vnto the mountaine to heare the cuent of this accident, but as they stode cloaked in silence, they heard her thus to conser with her beaultiful daughter. O my Rosana (quoth she) the vnbappit figure of him, that without pity hath wounded my heaft and left me comfortles with the greatest crulty that euer knyght or gentleman left Ladie: how hath it been possible that I haue had the force to bring vp the child of such a fathur which hath bereaued me of my libertie? O you soueraigne gods of heauen, grant y^e I may establish in my minde the remembraunce of the loue of thy adulterous fathur: oh girle borne to a further griefe, here doe I desire the guider of thy ffortunes, that thy glistering beaultie may haue such force and power, whereby the shining beames thereof may take revengement of the dishonor of thy mother: giue rare deare childe I say vnto thy dying mother, thou that art born in the dishonor of thy generation, by the losse of my virginity, here doe I charge thee upon my blessing, even at my houre of death, to swear thee by the omnipotens God of heauen, never to suffer thy beaulty to be enyoyed by any one, vntill thy disloyal fathers hand bee offered vp in a sacrifice vnto my graue, thereby somewhat to appease the furie of my discontented soule, and recover part of my former glorie.

These and such like words spake this afflicted quene, to the wonderfull amazement of the thre yong knyghts, which as yet intended not to discouer themselues, but to marks the cuent, for they conjectured that her woful complaintes were the induction of some strange accident: Thus as they stode obseruely behinde the trees, they sawe the young and beaultiful Damsell giue vnto her dying mother, paper, penaunce and Inke, the whiche she pulled from her Iuorie bosome, wherewith the grieved quene subscribed certain sorrowful lines vnto hym y^e was

The second Part of

the causer of her banishment: and making an end of her writing, they heard her (with a dying breath) speake unto her daughter these sorrowfull words following. Come daughter (quoth shee) beho'de thy Mother at her latest gaspe, and imprint my dying request in thy heart as a table of brasse, that it never may be forgotten, time will not give me longer respit, that with wordes I might shew unto the my deepe aff. ctions, for that I feele my death approaching and the fatall sisters ready to cut my thrid of life a sunder betwene the edges of their shieres, insomuch that I moste miserable creature do feele my soule tremblung in my flesh, and my heart quivering at this my last and fatal houre, but one thing (my sweet and tender child) die I desire of thee before I dye: which is, that thou wouldest procure that this letter may bee givuen to that cruell knight thy disloyall father, giuing him to understand of this my troublesome death, the occasion whereof was his unreasonable crueltie: and making an end of saying this, the miserable Daene fell downe, not having any more strength to sit vp, but let the letter fall out of her hand, the which her sorrowfull daughter presently tooke vp, and falling vpon her mothers brest, she replyes in this sorrowfull manner. O my swete mother tell me not that you will dye, for it ads a torment more greuous unto my soule then the punishments which Danaus daughters feele in hell, I would rather be borne in pieces by the fury of some merciless monstre, or to haue my heart parted in twaine by the handes of him that is my greatest enemie, then to remaine without your companie, swete mother let these my youthfull pieres, and this my greene budding beauty incourage you still to reuive, and not to leane me comfortlesse an exile in the world, but if the gloomy fates doe triumph in your death, and abridge your breathing ayre of life, and that your soule must needs goe wander in the Elizian shadues with Trufas shaduowes and with Didoes ghost, þerefore I protest by the greate and tender loue I
bear

the seuen Champions.

beare you, and by the due obedience that I owe unto your
age, either to deliuer this your letter into the hands of my
vngcombe father, or with these my routhful fingers rent my
heart in stunder, and before I will forget my vow, the sil-
uer streamed Tygris shall for; sake her course, the sea her
tides, and the glistering Quæne of night her vnuall chan-
ges: neither shal any forgetfulnes be an occasion to with-
draw my minde from performing your dying requestes:
Then this weak Quæne whose power and strength was
wholie decaied, and that her houre of death drew neare at
hand, with a feble voice she said. O you sacred & immortal
Gods, and all you bright celestiall powers of heauen, i. to
your deuine bosomes now do I commend my dying soule,
asking no other revengement against y causer of my death,
but that he may die like me, for want of loue. After this
the dead Quæne never spake word more, for at that in-
stant, the cruell destinies gaue end unto her life: but when
Rosana perceiued her to be dead, and she left to the world
desuide of comfort, she began to teare the golden trameles
from her head, and most furiously to beat her white and
yngrie brest, filling the emptie ayrs with clamors of her
mories, and making the skies like an echo to resound her
lamentations, and at last taking her mothers letter in her
hands, washing it with flouds of teares, and putting it
next unto her naked brest, she said: her lyt thou neare ad-
joining to my bleeding heart, never to be remoued until I
have performed my mothers dying testament. O wroth and
the last wroke of those her white and yngrie hands: heere
doo I swaare by the honor of true Virgins, not to part it
from my bleeding bosom vntil such time as loue hath rent
the disloyall heart of my vngcombe father, and in speaking
this shee kissed it a thousand times, breathing forth milli-
ons of ghes, and straight with a blushing countenance
as radient as Auroras glistring beames, she arose & said:
What is this Rosana, dost thou thinke to recall thy mothers
life with ceremonious complaints and not performe that

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which by her was comande d thee, arise, arise I say, ga-
ther unto thy selfe strength and courage, and wander vp
and dwelne the world till thou hast found thy disloyal Fa-
ther as thy true heart hath promised to doe. These words
being no sooner finished but Saint Georges Bonnes like
men whose hearts were almost overcome with griefe,
came from the pine trees and discouered themselves to the
Damsell, and curteously requested her to discourse the sto-
rie of all her passed mizeries, and as they were true chris-
tian knyghts they promised her (if it lay in their powers)
to release her sorrows and to gue end unto her mizeries.
This Rosana when shée behelde these curteous and well
de meauir'd knyghts. which in her conceit caried relen-
ting mindes and how kindly they desired to be partners
in her grieves, she stood not upon curiositie armes, nor vp-
on haine apprehensions, but most willingly condescended to
their requests: so when they had prepared their eares to
entertaine her sad and sorrowfull discourse, with a sober
countenance, shée began in this manner: Lately I was
(quoth she whilste fortune smil'd vpon me) the onely childe
and daughter of this luyles Queene that you beholde her
lyng dead, and she before my birth whilste heauen grau-
ted her prosperitie was the maiden Queene of a Countrie
called Armenia, adiopning neare unto this unhappie I-
land whome in her yong yeres when her beautie began
to florish, and her high renowne to mount vpon the wings
of fame, she was intrapped with the golden baite of blind
Cupid, & so intangled with the loue of a disloyall knyght,
cal'd the Knight of the black Castle, who after he had flo-
riȝt in the spoyle of her Virginitie, and had leſt his fruit-
ful ſeeds ſpringing in her womb, grew wearie of his loue,
and moſt diſcardeously leſt her as a ſhame unto her Coun-
trie, and a ſtaine unto her kindred, and after gaue himſelf
to ſuch luſtfull and laſcivious manner of life, that hee un-
lawfullis maried a ſhepheards daughter in a forraigne
land, and likewiſe ranished her own ſister, and after com-
mitted

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mitteth her most inhumane slaugter in a solitarie woode: this being done, he fortified himselfe in his blacke Castle, onely consoled with a cunning Nigromancer, whose skill in magick is so excellent, that al the knights in the world can never conquer the Castle, where ever since hee hath remained in despight of the whole earth.

But now speake I of the tragical storie of my vnhappy mother, when as I her unfortunate babe beganne first to strugle in her womb, wherin I wold I had bene strangled: she heard newes of her knights ill demeanur, and how he had wholly given himselfe to the spoile of virginitie, and had for euer left her loue, neuer intending to returne again, the grief wherof so troubled her mind, that she could not in any wise resemble it, for vpon a time being amongst her Ladies, calling to remembrance her spotted Virginitie, and the seede of dishonor planted in her womb, she felte into a wonderfull and strange traunce, as thoughe she had been oppressed with sodain death, which when her Ladies and damselis beheld, they presently determined to vnbrazc her richornaments, and to carrie her vnto her bed, but she made signes with her handes that they shuld depart and leau her alone, whose commaundement they strait way obeyed, not without great saorrow of them all, their loues were so deere. This afflicted Queen when she saw that she was alone, began to reclaine against her fortune, reuealing the fates with bitter exclamationes, O vnconstant Queene of chance (said shee) thou that hast warped such strange wels in my kingdome, thou that ganest my honor to that tirants lust, which without al remoufe hath left me comfortles, is thou that didst constraine me to set my life to sale, & to sel my honor as it were with the crier, compelling me to do that which hath spotted my Princely estate, and stain'd my bright honor with blacke infamie: woe is me for my virginitie, y which my parents gave me charge to haue respect vnto: but I haue carelesly keptit, & final-
ly regarded it: I will therefore so challice my body, for

thus

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thus forgetting of my selfe, and be soreuenged for the lit-
tle regarde that I haue made of my honour, that it shall
be an example to all noble Ladys and Princes of high
estate.

Oh miserable Duccene, oh sond and unhappy Lady: thy
speches be too too foolish, for although thy desperate hand
should pull out thy dispised harte from thy bleeding brest,
yet can it not make satisfaction for thy dishonour.

Oh Heavens, why do you not cast some fiery thunders-
bolt downe vpon my head: or why doth not the earth gape
and Swallowe my infamous bodye? Oh false and decei-
ving Lord, I wold thy loving and amorous words had
neuer beeene spoken: nor thy quicke sighted eyes, neuer
gazde vpon my beautie: then had I florish't still with glo-
ry and renowme, and liv'd a happy Virgin of chaste Dia-
naes traine.

With these and other like lamentations, this grieved
Duccene passed away the time, till at laste she felte her
wombe to growe big with childe: at the which she recei-
ued double paine, for that it was impossible to couer or
hide it, and seeing her selfe in this case, like a woman ha-
ted and abhorred, she determined to discouer her selfe pub-
likely vnto her subiectes, and deliver her body vnto them
to be sacrificed vnto their Gods: and with this determina-
tion, one day she caused certaine of her Nobles to be sent
for, who straightway fulfilled her commaundement, but
when she perceived her Lords, Knights and Gentlemen
of honour came altogether before her, she couered her selfe
with a rich robes and late vpon her bed in her pynuate cham-
ber, being so pale and leane, that all them that sawe her
had greate compassion vpon her sorrowe: beeing all set
round about her bed and keepeing silent, she reueales to
then the cause of her griefe in this manner.

My Lords (quoth she) I shame to intytle my selfe your
Queene and Emperaigne, in that I haue defamed the ho-
nor of my Countrie, and little regarded the welfare of our

Commons.

the seuen Champions.

Common wealth : my glistering crowne me thinkes is
gadded with a cloude of blacke disgrace, and my Prince-
ly attire conuerted into vnhaste habiliments, in which I
haue both lost the libertie of my heart, and withall my
wonted joy, and am now constrained to indure perpetual
paine, and an euer pining death : For I haue lost my ho-
nor, and reconered shame and infamie.

To conclude, I haue forgone the liberty of a Quene,
and solde my self to a slauish sinne, onely mine owne is the
faulth, and mine owne shall be the punishment. Therfore
without making any excuse, I haere surrender vp my bo-
dy into your powers, so that you may as an (swill quēn)
sacrifice me vnto our Gods : also that within my accursed
wombe, for now my Lords you shall vnderstand, that I
am dishonored by the knight of the blacke Castle: he hath
planted a Vine within my fruitful garden, and sowne a
seede that hath made Armenia infamouse: heit is that hath
committed so many euils in the wold: he it is that delights
in virgins spoiles, and hee it is that hath bereau'd mee of
my honoř, but with my good will I must needes confesse,
and leſt me for a testimonie of this my swill deed, big with
child, by which my virgins glory is conuerted to a mon-
strous scandall: and with this she made an end of her la-
mentable speach: And being grieuously oppresſed with the
paine of her burtienous wombe, she ſate her downe vpon
her rich bedde, and attened their wiſe: but when these
Carles, Lords and honorable personages that were pre-
ſent, had vnderſtood all that the Quene had ſaide vnto
them, like men greatly amazed, they changed their cul-
loas from red to white, and from white to red, in ſigne of
anger, and looking one vpon another, without ſpeaking
any word, but painting in their hearts the fault done by
their Quens to the great disgrace of their countrie, and ſo
without any further conſideration, they deþined her from
all princely dignitie, both of her owne and regiment,
and pronounced her perpetuall haſhing from thie-
ſonably.

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her, like subiectes hote to bee gouerned by such a defamed
Prince, that hath grafted the fruit of such a wicked tree
Within her womb.

So at the time appointed like a woman forlorn and
hated of all companies, shew stord her selfe sufficient with
treasure, and betooke her selfe to her appointed banish-
ment, after whose departure the Armenians, cleared thent
seues an other Prince, and left their lawfull Princie
wandering in unknown Planes, big with child deuise of
sorour and rebise, where instead of her Princely bed cov-
ered with Canopies of silk, shew toke her nightly repose
upon the green grasse, shadded with the sable curtaines of
heauen, and the nurses that were provided against her
deluerie were Nymphes and Faeries dancing in the
night by Proscriptes commandement: thus in greate
griefe continued she many daies contenting her selfe with
her appointed banishment, making her lamentations to
the whispring winds, which seemed in her concept to re-
answeare her complaints: at length the glistering moone
had tentimes borrowed light of the golden Phœbus, and
the nights cleare candle were now almost extinguished,
by which time approuched the houre of her laborsome tra-
uell, wherein onely by the assistance of heauen shew was
delivered of me her unhappy daughter, where euer since
I haue bene nourished by the deuine powers of heauen,
for many times when I came to pere of discretion, my
wofull mother would discourse unto me this lamentable
story of both our miseries, the which I haue moche truely
dealed unto you.

likwise shew told me that many times in my infancie,
when shew wanted milke in her breast to nourish me, there
would come a Lionesse, and sometimes a She Beare and
gently gine me sucke, and contrarie to the nature of wilde
beastes, they woulde many times sporte with me, where by the
coniecture that the euillest all powres had poysoned me
for some strange fortune; likewise at my beryng nature had
piscur'd

the Seven Champions.

picture'd upon my brest, directly betwixt my tender Paps,
the lively forme of a purple Rose, which as yet both beau-
tifie my beseme with a vermillion colour: and this was
the cause that my mother named me Rosana, answerable
to natures marke.

After this we liu'd many a yeare in great distresse, pe-
nurie and want, soliciting heauen to redresse our woes,
more oftner then we had liued houres: the abundance of
our teares might suffice to make a watry sea, and our
sighes in number to counterbaile the starres of heaven:
but at last the fatal sisters listed to my mothers mores &
to my great sorrowe, seppuired her of her life, where now I
am left a comfooles Orphant to the world, attending the
time vntill that heauen send some courteous Knight that
may conduct me to that blacke Castle, where my disloyall
father hath his residence, that I might her perform my
mothers dying will: these mynes being flesched, Rosana
stood silent, so that her extreme griefe hindred the pas-
sage of her tongue, and her eyes rained such a shower of
pearle deare upon the lifeles body of her mother, that it
constrained vnto her vngesent to expelle the like
sorrows: but asold they had let fall a few teares down
from their lase eyes, and had taken tyme for a tyme with
griefe, they tooke Rosana by the hand, (which before that
time never fouch'd the body of any man) and poynted her
to depart from her company till they had safelie delue-
red her into the blacke Castle.

After this time the Christian Knights had pitifully
bewailed the miserie and vntimely death of her mother,
they tooke their daggers and digged a deep graue vnder a
Bay tree and buried her body, that hungry rauens might
never seaze vpon it, or furious beasts teare it in pieces, nor
vanehous Darke & deuouring: and after with the point of
their daggers they in graued this Epitaph in the rinde of
the Bay tree, besyng where to leane their halfe hollow.

The second Part of

*The Epitaph ouer the graue of the
unfortunate Queene of Armenia.*

Heere lies the body of a haples Queene,
Whose great goodwill to her, final loue did
bring:
Her faithfull minde required was with teene
Though she deserued for loue a regall King.
And as her corpes inclosed heere doth lye,
Her lucklesse fate, and fame shal never dye.

See when they shall have this Epitaph and covered her
graue with grans fernes, they departed sylwes on their
ioyney towards the blachie Castle, where wee will leue
them in their trauels, and returne to the disloyal Leager,
and howe hee foortified his Castle by magick arte, accor-
ding to the learned Chilona cumming Nigromander, and
of the aduentures that hapned to foorth George with the
other Christian Champions in the same Castle, therewer
graunt you immortall powres of heauen, that my penne
may be dipt in the waters of that learned fountain, where
the nine Alchemie inhabite, that by the helpe of that sweet
liquor my muse may haue a delightfull booke, so that imp-
ring the speech of Mercury with the powesse of Mars, I
may discourse of the straunge accident that ever hapned
to wauing Knights.

the seuen Champions.

CHAP. VIII.

Of the preparation that the Knight of the blacke Castle made by magick arte, to withstand his enemies, and how the seuen Champions entred the same Castle, where they were inchaunted into a dead sleep, so long as seuen Lamps burned, which coulde not bee quenched but by the wwater of an inchaunted Fountaine.

De wicked Leoger by you have
read of before, by the knight of
the blacke Castle, and one that so
wealthy and treasure surpassed the
mightyest potentate of those count
ries, when he grew old and
a shrowd in these countries, as
well by noble knyghts as gallant
knights, for the syde and murther
of those thre comely Damells, whose pitifull storties you
heard in the two past **Chapters**, and fearing a somaine
vengeance to fall upon his head, hee fortid himselfe
strongly in his Castle, wherewith his treasure hord many
furious Giants to defend it; wherfore it they sayled, a shrowd
chance to be overcome, hee consorted with a wicked Negro
thane that with charmes and spells shoulde wylle the won
drak.

The second Part of

vers in his Castle, which magicall accomplishments we will passe ouer till a more conuenient time, because I purpose to explaine the historie in good order to the readers: first speake we of Saint George with the other christian knights that came in reuenge of the Shepheard and his unfortunat daughter, who with good successe arrived upon the shoare of the Iland, where this wicked Leoger and the Magician had fortifyed their blacke Castle: In which countrie the Christian Champions, like the invincible followers of Mars, fearing no danger nor the frowns of unconstant fortune, but betooke themselves the readiest way towards the Castle, in which iorney they were almost ravished with the pleasures of the Iland, for entring into a broad and straight lane, garnished on both sides with trees of divers stately, wherein they heard howe the Sommer birds recorded their pleasant melodies, and made their sweet and accustomed songes without feare of any man to molest them, in which roade of pleasant trees that delighted them on both sides: there wanted not the green lawne, so much esteemed of learned scholers: nor the sweet myrtle trees, loued by Ladys: nor the high Cyresse so much regarded of Lovers, nor the stately pines, which for his flourishing height is called the prince of trees: whereby they iudged it to be a habitation for the Gods then any terrestrial country, for that the golden Sun with his glittering bosome did passe through those greene and pleasant trees without any hindrance of blacke clodes: for the beautes were as cleare as triall silver, like wise the winter windes did softly shake the shinering leaves, whereby it made as sweet a harmonie as the celestiall Cherubins of heaven: a thousand little streamed brookes ran upon the unswelled gronne, making sundry fine workes by their crooked turnings, and ioyning one water with another, with a very gentle meeting, making such siluer musike, that the Champions with the pleasure thereof were almost ravished, and smally regarded whither their horses

the seuen Champions.

went right or no: and trauelling in this sorte, they rode forward till they camè into a meruailous great and wide medow, beeing of a greate fairenes, that I am not able with any pen to painte out the excellencie thereof: where as were feeding both wilde and tame Partes, adorneed with great and cragged hornes: likwise the furious wild Boze, the fierce Lyon and the simple Lambes were alio: g: that feeding with so greate friendeship, as to the contrary by nature they were enemis;

Wherat the noble Champions were almost overcome by their owne conceites, and amazed in their imaginacions, to see so strange loue cleane contrarie unto nature, and that there was no difference betwixt the loue of wilde beastes and tame: in this manner they trauelled, till vpon a sodaine they arriued before the buildinges of the blacke Castle: and casting their eyes towards the same, they beheld neare unto the principall Gate, right over the Castle, twelue Marble Pinnacles, of such an exceedinge heighth, that the Pyramides of Egipt, were very lowe, in comparison of them: in such sorte, that whosoever would looke upon them, was scant able with his sight to comprehend the heighth thereof: and they were all painted moste gorgiously with severall cullours.

Downe beewe under the Castle there was an Arche with a Gate, which seemed to be of Diamonds, and all was compassed about with a great moate or ditch, beeing of so great a depth, that they thought it to reach to the middest of the earth and it was almost two hundred paces broad, and every Gate had his Draw-bridge, all made of redde boordes, which senned as though they had beene bathed all in blood.

Then the Champions rad to the other side of this godly Castle, wondering at the vniuersall and sumptuous workmanship, where they espoyed a Haller of beautifull 3. bper stone, all inlaid full of pretious stones of stranges work, the which pinter was of great value, and was garnished with

The second Part of

with chalnes of golde, that were made fast unto it by Magicks arte, at which Piller likewise hung a very costly silver Trumpet, with certaine letters carued about the same, the which contained these wordes following.

If any dare attempt this place to see,
By sounding this, the Gate shal opened be.
A Trumpet heere inchaind by magick arte
To daunt with fear the proudest champion's hart
Looke thou for blows that entrest in this gate
Returne in time, repentance comes too late.

The which when Saint George beheld, and had understande the secrets of these mysticall woodes, without anye moxe carryinge, he sette the silver Trumpet to his mouth, and sounded such a dehiment blaste, that it thundred in the elements, and seemed to shake the foundation of the Castle: whereat the principall Gate presently opened, and the brave Bridge was let downe, without the helpe of anye visible hand, which made the Champions to wonder, and to stand amazed at the strange accident, but yet intending not to returns like cowards daunted with a puffe of wind, they alighted from their warlike steedes, and delurred them unto the vnde shepheards hands, to be fed upon the fragrant and greene grasse, till they had performede the aduenture of the Castle, the which they bowed either to accomplish, or never to returne: blocking downe their Beavers and drawing forth their kiene edged saucethons, they entred the Gates, and beeing safly within, the championes looked round about them to see if they could espoye any body, but they saw nothing but a paire of mind-ying draynes, whereat they alighted, but they had not gone many foyles, when they alighted, when as there was so great a parke,

nes,

the seuen Champions.

nes, that scarce they could see any light, so that it rather seemed the similitude of hell, then any other worldy place, and so groping by the walles, they kept their going down those narrow and turning Staires, which were very long, and of such length, that they thought they descended into the middle of the earth.

They spent a great time in descending those staires, but in the end they came into a very faire and large Court all compassed with Iron grates like unto a prison, or a place prouided to keep untaimed Lyons, wherin casting their eyes up to the toppe of the Castle they behelde the wicked knight walking with the Nigromancer vpon a large gallery, supported by huge pillars of brasse: likewise there was attending vpon them seuen Giants, armed in mighty Iron coates, holding in their hands bats of Steele: to whom the bolde and venterous Champion of England spake with a haughty courage and lowde voyce in this manner.

Come downe thou wicked knight, thou spoyle of virginity, thou that art intirened with those monstrous Giants, those the wondring works of nature, whose daring lookes seemeth to scale the heavens, like unto the pride of Nemrod when hee offered to builde vpon Babels confusd Tower.

Come downe I say, from thy Brazen gallery, and take to thee thy armes, thou that hast a heart to commit a Virgins rape, for whose reuenge we come: now likewise haue a courage to make thy defence, for we wyl never to returne out of thy Castle til we haue confounded thee and all thy forces.

At which words he held his peace, and expected an answer. But the wicked knight when hee heard these heroicall speeches of Haint George, began to fret & fume like to the starued Lyon famished with hunger, or the iresful Tiger museling in humane bloud, with a great desire to satisfie his thirst: or like the wrath of dogged Cerberus

The second Part of

When as he feasted with Alcides flesh, evyn foraged Leo-
ger the knyght of the blacke Castle, throtting forth fu-
rie from his sparkling eyes; and in this vyle manner he
reanswered the noble Champio of England: proude knyght
(said he) or peasanthe whatsoeuer thur arte, I passo not the
smallest haire of my head, for thus vppraydng me with
thy vnclytunge, I wilb returne thre speechlesse into hell,
for the pavements of my Castle that all be sprinkled with
thy accursed blod, and the bones of those thy unhappy fol-
lowers shall be buried in the Lakes of my channelles: if
thou hadst brought the armes of invincible Calary, that
made all landes to tremble wher ehe came; yet were they
but a blast of wunde unto my seeres: Seest thou not my
Giants which stand like oaks vpon this brazen gallery?
they at my comandment shall take you from the places
where you stand, and thauke yowenre the walles of my
Castle, in such sorte, that they shall make you slye into
the ayre, more then tenne fathams high: and soz that
thou hast vpprayd me with the disgraces don vnto a vir-
gin: I tell thee, if I had thy mother heere, of whome thou
takest first the ayre of life, my hand shoulde splittre womb,
that thou mightest se the bed of thy creation as Nero did in
Rome; & if thy wifc and children were heere present be-
fore thy face, I would abyde their lives, that thy accurs-
ed eyes might be witnesses of their bludie murthers: so
much wrath and hysere nowrageth in my heart, that al the
blood in Asia cannot wash it shence.

At which woyds, the Giants which he had hymed to de-
fend him from his seeres, came unto him very strongly ar-
med with sturdie weapons in their handes, and requested
him to be quiet, and to abate his unsufferable anger, and
they woulde fetche unto his presence, all those branng
knyghtes that were the occasion of his disquietnesse and
anger: and so without tarryng for any answer, they de-
parted downe into the Courte, and left the knyght of the
Castle with the Pagitian, standing still vpon the gal-
lery

the Seven Champions.

lery to beholde the following entcounters:

But when the Giants approched the Champions p[er]se, and sawe them so well proportioned and furnished, and knyghtes of so mighty statures, they florished about their knotty clubbes, and purposed not to spend the time in wordes but in blowes.

Then one of the fiercest and cruellest Giants of them all (which was called Brandomond) saing Haynt George to be the forwardest in the enterpize, and iudging him to be the knyght that had so brasid his Lord, he began with afer the countenance to speake vnto him in this manner: Art thou that holde Knyght (said the Giant) that with thy wilesse wordes hast so angred the mighty Leger the Lord of this Castell if thou bee, I advise thee by submissi-
on, to keepe to appease his furious wrath before reuenge-
ment be taken vpon thy person.

Also I doe require thee (that if thou wylt remaine with thy life) that thou doest leaue thy armour, and yelde thy selfe, with all these thy followers, with their handes fast bound behinde them, and goe and aske forgiuenes at his feter to which Haynt George with a smiling countenance answered, Giant (said he) thy councell I doe not like, nor his honor will I receive, but rather we hope to send thee and all thy followers without tongues to the infernall King of the ynglymeron: and for that you shall not have any more time to speake such folly and foolishnes, eyther returne your waies from whence you came, and repente you of this which you haue said, or else prepare your selues to mortall battell.

The Giants when they heard the Champions resolutions, and how lightly they regarded theyr proffers, without any longer tariance they fell vpon Haynt George and his company intending with their knotty bats of stale to beate them as small as flesh vnto the pot, but the Miserie of chance so swyld vpon the chivalrian Champions, that the Giants smally preuailed, soe
ens

The second Part of his

with chaunes of golde, that were made fast unto it by Ma-
gicke arte, at which pinte likewise hung a very costly
silver Trumpet, with certayne letters caried about the
Same, the whiche contained these wordes following. (141)
CANTO. XVII. I. ONS SAVIOZ DED. A. 141. 17. 1. 15.
CANTO. XVII. 1. 141. 17. 1. 15. 1. 141. 17. 1. 15. 1. 141. 17. 1. 15.
Yerid. 15. attempr his place to see.

If any dare attempt this place to see,

By sounding this, the Gate shall open be.

A Trumpet heere inchain'd by magick arte

To daunt with fear the proudest chapios hart

Looketh thou for blows that en'rest in this gate

Return in time, reparation comes too late.

SQL to a specific set of stored objects (e.g. tables, views, and functions).

the seuen Champions.

nes, that scarce they could see any light, so that it rather seemed the similitude of hell, then any other worldy place, and so groping by the walles, they kept their going down those narrow and turning Staires, which were very long, and of such length, that they thought they descended into the middle of the earth.

They spent a great time in descending those staires, but in the end they came into a very faire and large Court all compassed with Iron grates like unto a prison, or a place provided to keep bratned Lyons, wherin casting thir eyes up to the toppe of the Castle they behelde the wicked knight walking with the Nigromancer upon a large gallery, supported by huge pillars of brasse: like wise there was attending upon them seven Giants, armed in mighty Iron coates, holding in their hands bats of Steele: to whom the bolde and venterous Champion of England spake with a haughty courage and lowde voyce in this manner.

Come downe thou wicked knight, thou spoyle of viginity, thou that art intironed with those monstrous Giants, those the wondryng worke of nature, whose daring lookes semeth to scale the heauens, like unto the pride of Nemrod when hee offered to bulde by Babels confusio[n] Tower.

Come downe I say, from thy Brauen gallery, and take to thee thy armes, thou that hast a heart to commit a Virgins rape, for whose revenge we come: now likewise haue a courage to make thy defence, for we wyl never to returne out of thy Castle til we haue confounded thee and all thy forces.

At which words he held his peace, and expected an answer. But the wicked knight when hee heard these heroicall speeches of Saint George, began to fret & fume like to the starued Lyon famished with hunger, or the iresful Tiger mauling in humane bloud, with a great desire to satisfie his thrist: or like the wrath of dogged Cerberus

The second Part of

Whenas he fassid with Alcides fleshe, even for aged Leo-
ger the knyght of the blacke Castle, thwoatning forth fu-
rie from his sparkling eyes ; and in this vile manner he
reanswered the noble Champio of England: proud knyght
(said he) or present, whatsover thou arte, I passe not the
smallest haire of my head, soz thus vppryding me with
thy vnglytonge, I will retourne this spachelle into hell,
for the pavements of my Castle shal be sprinkled with
thy accursed blode, and the bones of those thy unhappy fol-
lowers shal be buried in the Oakes of my chambelles : if
thou hast brought the harme of invincible Caesar, that
made all landes to tremble wher he cam; yet were they
but a blast of winde unto my forces : Behold their not my
Giants which stand like oaks vpon this beazien gallerye
they at my commandement shal take you from the places
where you stand, and aboue you over the walles of my
Castle, in such sorte, that they shal make you ffe into
the ayre, more then tenne fathams high : and soz that
thou hast vppryd me with the misgodes done unto a vir-
gin : I tell thee, if I had the mother hore, of whome thou
kolest first the ayre of life, my hand shoulde splinter thowb,
that thou mighte scape the bas of thy creation, and exodus in
Rome, yea if the wife and children were here present be-
fore thy face, I would abyde their lves, that thy accurs-
ed eyes might be witnessnes of their blodie murthers : so
much wrath and heare no meagre thin my heart, that at the
blood in this farron fassid thence and us (1). . 242

At which words, the Giants which he had hymed to defend him from his foes, came unto him very strongly armed with sturdie weapons in their handes, and requested him to be quiet, and to abate his unsufferable anger, and they woulde fetche unto his presence, all those brawling knyghtes that were the occasion of his disquietnesse and anger: and so without taryng for any answer, they departed downe into the Courte, and left the knight of the Cattle with the Magitian, standing still uppon the gal-

the seven Champions.

Very to beholde the following entcounters :

But when the Giants appoched the Champions presence, and saw them so well proportioned and furnished, and knyghtes of so myghty statures, they florished about their knotty clubbes, and purposed not to spend the tyme in wordes but in blowes.

Then one of the fiercest and cruellest Giants of them all (which was called Brandomore) saing Saint George to be the forwardest in the enterprise, and iudging him to be the knyght that had so bisid his Lord, he began with aske the countenance to speake vnto him in this manner : Art thou that bolde knyght (said the Giant) that with thy wickeste wordes haue so angred the myghty Leger the Lord of this Castell if thou bee, I advise thee by submision, to be hito appase his furious wrath before revenge, wente be taken vpon thy person.

Also I doe require thee (that if thou wylt remaine with thy life) that thou doost leue thy armour, and yelde thy selfe, with all these thy followers, with their handes fast bound behirde them, and goe and aske forgiuenes at his sister to whiche Saint George with a smiling countenance answered, Giant (said he) thy councell I doe not like, noz his honor will I receve, but rather we hope to send thee and all thy followers without tonges to the infernall King of hell by Plegethon : and so that you shall not hate any more time to spedre such folly and foolishnes, eyther returne your waies from whence you came, and repeare you of this which you haue said, or elis prepare your selues to mortall battell.

The Giants when they heard the Champions resolution, and how lightly they regarded theyr proffers, without any longer tariare they fell vpon Saint George and his company intending with their knotty bats of stalle to beate them as small as chyl vnto the pot, but the Malice of chance so swynged vpon the champion Champions, that the Giants smally preuailed, so

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betwixt them was fought a long and terrible battell, in such danger that the victory heng hauering on both sides not knowing to whome she shold fall, the bats and fau-
lions made such a noyse vpon one anothers armes, that they sounded like to the blewes of the Cyclops working
vpon their fiery Anvils: and at every blowe they gaue,
like flew from their steeled Cozelets, like sparkles from
the flaming furnaces in hell, the skires resounded backs
the echoes of their stroakes, and the grounde shooke as
though it had bee ne oppresed with an earth-quake: the
pauements of the Court was oversprewed with an inter-
mixed colour of bloud and sweat, and the wals of the Ca-
stle was mightily battered with the Giants clubs: but by
the time that glistening Apollo the daies bright Candle
begant to declare from the top of heauen, when the Giants
(weared in fift) began so to faint: whereat the Christi-
an Knights with more courage, beganne to increase in
strength and with such rigor assayled the Giants that be-
fore the golden houres had dined to the westre the wold,
all the Giants were quite discomfited and slaine, some
lay with their heads dismembered from their bodies wel-
tering in purple gore, some had their braines spinkled a-
gainst the walles, some lay in the channels with their
intrails trapling downe in streames of bloud, and some
toynedes with their bodies cut in pieces, so that there was
not one left alane to withstand the Christian Champi-
ons.

Whereat Saint George with the other sixe Knights
fell vpon their knees and thanked the immortall Rector
both of heauen and earth for their victorie.

But when the knight of the blache Castle which stood
vpon the gallerie during all the time of the encounter and
saw how all his Giants were slaine by the prouesse of
those strang Knights, he razed against heauen and earth,
wishing that the grounde might gape and swalowe him,
before he were deliuert into the handes of his enimies,
and

the Seven Champions.

and presently would have cast himselfe headlong from the top of the gallery, to haue dasht his braines against the stony pavements, but that the Nigromancer which stoode likewise by him beholding the event of the encounter, intercepted him in his intended drift, and promised that hee would performe by arte, what the Giants could not do by force.

So the Nigromancer fel to his magick spels & charms, by which the Christian Champions were mightily troubled and molested and brought in danger of their liues, by a terrible and strange manner as shall bee hereafter shewne.

For as they stoode after their long encounters unbuttoning their armes to take the fresh ayre and to wash the yron bloudy wounds received in their last confitie : the Magician caused by his arte and angry spirit in the likenes of a Lady of a marnalous and faire beauty, looking through an yron grate, who seemed to leane her faire face vpon her white hand very pencively, and distilled from her chistal eyes great abundance of teares, which when the Champions saw this beaultiful creature, they remained in great admiration, thinking with themselves, that by some hard misfortune she was impysoned in those yron grates, with that this Lady did seeme to open her faire and chistal eyes, looking earnestly vpon Saint George, and giving a gerasious and sorrowful sigh, she with drewe her selfe from the grate, which sodaine departure caused the Christian Knights to have a great desire to know who it should be, suspecting that by the force of some enchantment they should be ouerthowne : and casting vp their eyes againe to see if they could see her, they could not, but they saw in the very same place a woman of a great and princely stature, who was all arm'd in siluer plates, with a sworde girded at her waste, sheathed in a golden scabbord, and hanged at her necke an Ivory bowe and a gilt quiver, this Lady was of so great beautie, that she seemed almost

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to excell the other, but in the same sorte as the other did, byon a sodaine she vanished away, leaving the Champions no lesse troubled in their thoughtes then before they were.

The christian Knights had not long time bewayled the absence of the Lady, but that without seeing any body they were stricken with such furious blowes vpon their backes, that they were constrainyd to stow with one knie vpon the ground, yet with a trice they arose againe, and looking abdut them to see whos they were that brok them, they perswaded them to be the likenesse of certaine knights which in great haste seemed to runne into a doore that was at one of the corners of the Courte, and with the great anger that the Champions received, seeing them selues so hardly intreated, they followed with their accustomed lightnesse after the knyghtes, in at the same doore; where in they had not entred threes steps, but that they fell downe into a depe caue, whch was couered ouer in such subtill sorte, that whosoeuer did tread on it, straight way fell into the caue, except he was auertised therof before: with in the caue it was as darke as the silent night, and no light at all aperead: but when the Champions saw them selues so trecherously betrayed in the trap, they greatly feared some further mischiese would follow, to their vitter ouerthowes, so with their swords drawne, they stood ready charged to make their defence, against what soever should after happen; but by reason of the great darkenesse they could not see any thing, neither discouer wherein they were fallen, they determined to settle themselves against something, either post, piller or wall: and groping about the caue, they searched in every place for some other doore that might bring them soothly out of that darkeosome denne, whch they compared to the pit of hell.

And as they went groping and falling vp and downe, they found that they tread vpon no other thinges but dead mens bones, which caused them to stand still: and not long

the seven Champions.

long after, they espied a secret windowe, at the which entred much clarenesse, and gane a great light into the den where they were, by which they espyed a bed moste richly furnished with curtaines of silke, and golden pendantes which shone in a secret roome of the caue; behung with rich tapestries of a sable colour, which bed when the Champions beheld, and being somewhat weary of their long sight which they had with the Giants in the Court of the Castle, they required some rest and desired some sleepe vpon the bed, but not all at one instant: for they feared some daunger to bee at hand, and therefore Saint George as one moste willing to be their watchman, and to keepe sentry in so daungerous a place, caused the other Champions to take their repose vpon the bed, and he would be as wakefull as the cocke against all daungerous accidents: so the five Christian Knights repaired to the bed, whereon they wers no sooner layde, but presently they fell into a heauy and dead sleep, in such sort that they could not be awaked by any manner of violence, not all the warlike drayps in Europe if they were sounded in their eares, no, the rattling thunder claps of heauen were sufficient to recall them from their sleeps, for indeed the bedde was inchaunted by the Nigromancers charmes, in such manner that whosoever but late vpon the soe, or but the furniture of the bed, were presently cast into as heauy a sleepe as if they had drunke the toree of dwaile or the seede of Dappie, where we will leue them for a tyme like men cast into a trance, and speake of the terrible aduenture that hapned to Saint George in the caue, who little mistaking of their inchantments, stode like a carefull guard behynd the fowles wolfe from the spoile of the silly sheep: but vpon a somme highart began to throb, & his herte to stand upright vpon his head, vpon having a heart fraught with iniurie & courage, he purposed not to awake other Knights, but of himselfe to understand whatsoeuer hapned, so being in his princely cogitation there appered to him as

he.

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hee thought the shape of a Magitian with a visage leane,
pale and full of wrinckles, with lockes of blacke hayre
hanging downe to his shouulders like to wreathes of in-
vencioned snakes, and his body seemed to haue nothing
upon it but skin and bones, who spake unto Saint George
in this dispitfull manner: in an evill houre (said the Magi-
tian) carnest thou heþer, and so shalþ thy louing be, and thy
entertainment worse, for now thou art in a place where-
as thou shalþ looke for no other thing, but to be meat unto
some furious beast, and thy armoured strengþ shall not
be able to make any defencþ.

The English Champion whose heart was oppresſed
with extremes wrath: answered, O false and accursed
charmer (said he) whome Gods confound for thy condem-
ned arte, and for whom the fiends hath dig'd an euerla-
ting tomb in hell, what furie hath incouer'd thee, that with
thy false and develish charmes thou doſt practise so much
euill against traielling and aduenterous knyghtes, I
hope to obtaine my libertie in despite of al thy mischiefe
and with my stronge arme to breake all thy bones in sun-
der.

All that thou doſt and will do wil I ſuffer at thy hands
repiled the Nigromancer, onely for the revengement that
I will take of thee for the ſlaughter of the ſeven Giants,
which as yet lyes murthered in the court, and that verry
quickly, and therewithall hee went inuincibly out of the
Cane, ſo not long after at his backe hee heard a ſobaine
noiſe, and beheld as it were a windowe opening by little
and little, where as there appeared a cleare light, by the
which Daſt George plainly perceaued that the waſs of
the Cane were waſt with bloud, and like wiſe ſawe that
the bones wheron they treade at their firſt entry into the
den were of humane boſies, which appeared not to be ve-
ry long ſince their fleshe was torn off with hard and cru-
ell teeth, but this conſideration could not long endure with
him, for that he heard a great rumour, and looking what it
ſhould

the seuen Champions.

should be, he saw that there was comming forth out of an other den, a myghtie serpent with wings, as great in bo-
dy as an Elephant, he had onely two feet which appeared
out of that monstros body but of a span length, and each
foote had thre clawes of thre spannes in length, she came
with her mouth open of so monstros and huge a bigne,
and so deformed, that a whole armed Knight horse and
all, might enter in thereat, she had upon her Iawes two
tuskes which seemed to be as sharpe as any needles, and al
her body was covered with hard scales of divers colours,
and with great fury she came with her wings all abjoad,
Saint George although he had a valiant and an undaun-
ted minde, yet could he not chuse but receiu some feare in
seeing so monstros a beast.

But considering with himselfe, that it was then time,
and great need to haue courage, and to be expert and val-
iant for to make his defence, he tooke his good cutting
sword in his hand, and shrowded himselfe vnder his hard
and stronge shielde, and tarried the comming of that vgly
monster.

But when the furious beast saw that there was a pray
whereon she might imploy her sharpe teeth, shee stroake
with her inuenomous wings, and with her pearcing
clawes she griped, and layd fast hold vpon Saint Georges
hard shield, pretending to haue swallowed whole this co-
ragious warrier, and fastning her sharp tuskes vpon his
helmet, which when she found so hard, she let goe her hold
and furiously pulled at his target, with such a strenght
that shes pulled it from his arme: with that the Eng-
lish knight stroake at her head a most mighty and stronge
blow with his sword, but in no wise it could hurt her, by
reason of the hard scales where with it was covered, and
though he gaue her no wound, yet for all that shes felt the
blow in such sort that it made her to recollecte the ground,
and to fall vpon her long and hideous tayle, then this
opprest Knight made great hast to redouble his force

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to strike her another blow: but all was in vain, for that upon a sodaine she stretched her selfe so high, that he could not reach her head: but yet kind fortune so sauoured his hand, that he stroke her upon the belly, wheras shee had no defense with scales, nor anie other thing but feathers: whereout issued such abundance of blacks blood, that it besprinkled all the denne about.

This terrible and furious Serpent, when shee felt her selfe so sore wounded, stroke at Saint George such a terrible a blow with her taile, that if he had not seyn it commynge it had been sufficient to haue parted his boode in two. The knight to cleare himselfe from the blow, fell flat upon the ground, for he had no time to make any other defence. But that terrible blow was no sooner passed ouer him, but straight waies he recovered his feete, at such time as the furious Serpent came towarde him. Here Saint George having a great confidence in his strength, performed such a valiant exploit, that all former Adventures that hath beene euer done by anie Knight, may bee put in obliuion, and this kept in perpetuall memorie: for that he threwe his sword out of his hand, and ran unto the Serpent, and embraceth her betwixt his mighty armes, & did so squeeze her, that the furious Beast could not helpe her selfe with her sharpe clawes, but onely with her wings she beat him on euerie side. This valiant Champion and noble Warrier would never let her loose, but still remained holding her betwixt his armes, continuing this perillous and dangerous fight, till all his bright armour was imbrued with her bestiall blood, by which occasion shre lost a great part of her strength, and was not able long to continue.

Long indured this great and dangerous encounter, and the infernall Serpent remained fast unto the noble and valiant breast of the English knight, till such time as he plainly perceaneed that the Monster began to were faint, and to lose her strength. Likewise it could not be other-
wise,

the seueral Champions.

wise, but Saint George weryed somewhat wearie, considering the former fight he had solately with the Giants. Notwithstanding when he saw the great weaknes of the Serpent, he did animate himselfe with courage, and having opportunity by reason of the quantitie of blood that issued from her wounds, he tooke his trustie sword & thrust it into her heart with such violence, that he cloue it in two pieces : so this infernall Monster fell downe dead to the ground, and carried the Christian Champion with her, for so that they were fast closed together, and by reason that the Serpent lacked strength, hee quickly cleare d himselfe out of her clawes, and recovered his sword. But when he saw certainly that hee was cleare from the Monster, & that she had yielded vp her detested life into y briste airc, he knelled downe and gave thankes to the immortall ma testie of God for his saftey deliverie. The venome was so great that the Serpent threw out to infect the knight, that if his armour had not beene of a precious vertue, hee had beene impoysoned to death.

After the victorie was obtained and the Monster dead, he grew verie wearie and vnquiet, and was constrainyd to sit and coole himselfe by a well which was full of water, standing by in a corner of the Cave, from whence the monstrous Serpent first appeared and came forth. And when he found himselfe refreshed, he repayred to the In chaunted bed whereupon the other sixe Champions laye sleeping, dreming of no such straunge accident that had happened to him : to whom he purposed to reveale the true discourse of all the dangers that had besafne him in that accident.

But no sooner approached he unto that inchaunted bed and had set himselfe downe vpon the one side therof, and thinking to begin his discourse, but he presently fell into a heauie and dead slumber.

There will we leaue them sleeping and dreming vp, on the inchaunted bed, not to be wakened by anie means,

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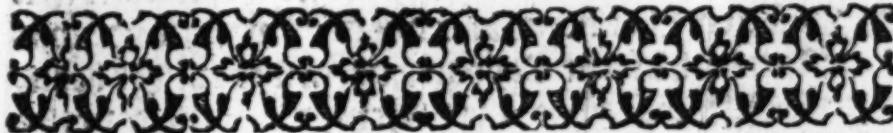
and returne to the Nigromancer that was busied all the time of the Serpents encounter, with Leoger in burying of the dead Giants: But now he knew by his arte, that the Serpent was slaine, and likewise Saint George opprest with a charmed sleepe, in companie of the other Champions upon the inchaunted bed, from whence hee purposed that they never more should awake, but spende their followed fortunes in eternall sleepes.

Then by his devilish artes he caused seuen Lampes to burne continually before the entry of the Cave, the properties whereof were so strange, that so long as the Lampes continued burning, the Champions should never be awaked and the fiers should never be quenched but by the water of an inchaunted fountaine, the which he likewise by magick arte had erected in the middle of the court guarded most strongly with fearefull shapes, and the water should never be obtained but by a Virgin which at her birth should have the forme of a Rose most lively picture upon her brest.

These thinges being performed by the secrets of the Magitians skill added futh a pleasure to Leogers heart, that he thought himselfe elevated higher then towers of heauen, for he accompted no joy so pleasing vnto his soule as to see his mostall enemies captivated in his power, and that the Magician had done more by his artes, then al the Knights in Asia could performe by prowesse: we will not now onely leane the Champions in their sleepes dreading of no mishap, but also the Magician with Leoger in the blacke Castle, spending their time securely, careles of all insuing daunger, and speake now of the olde Shepheard whome the Champions at their first entring in at the gates of the Castle, where they left him to looke vnto their warlike palfries as they fed vpon the grene grasse: but when this olde man could heare no newes of the Champions returne, he greatly mistrusted their confusson, and that by some trecherie they were intercepted in their

the seuen Champions.

cheir bowed reuengement, therefoze he protested secretly with his owne soule , in that fo; his sake so many braue Champions had lost their lynes , neuer to depart out of those fieldes , but to spend his daies in moze sorrow then did the haplesse King of Babilon, that fo; seauen parching Summers, and as many frēzing Winters was constrained to feede vpon the flowers of the fieldes, and to drinke the dewe of heauen , till the haires of his heade grewe so stiffe as Egles feathers, and the nailes of his fingers like unto birds clawes, the like extremitie he bowed to indure, vntill he either reobtained a wished sight of those invincible knights (the flowers of chivalry) or else were constrained by course of nature to yeld vp his loathed life, to the furie of those fatall sisters : In this dæpe distresse will my wearie muse like wise leue this old shepheard mourning for the long absence of the English Champion and the other Christian Knights, and returne unto Saint Georges valiant Hornes, whome we left travelling from the Quene of Armenias graue, with her vnhappy daughter Rosana: to take reuengement fo; her disloyal Lord, being the Knight of this blacke Castle , of whose vilanies you haue heard so much of before.



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CHAP. IX.

How Saint Georges three sonnes after their departure from the Queene of Armenias se- pulcher, in companie of her Daughter Rosana, met with a Wilde-man, with whom there hapned a strange Aduenture: and after how they entered the Blacke Castle, whereas they quencht the Lamps, and awakened the sea- uen Champions of Christendome, after they had slept seauen dayes vpon an inchaunted bedde, with other things that chanced in the same Castle.



He budding Flowers of Chivalrie
the valiant Sonnes of S. George
to performe their Knightly promis-
ses, & to accomplish what they had
protestted to Rosana at the Queene
her mothers graue, which was to
deliuer her safely into the Blacke
Castle, where her vnkinde father
had his residence.

First they bought her a Palfray of a silke colour of Spaine traynd
in that Countrey, with certainte chaines and iewells that
she wore about her necke and wresses, which she de was
furnished with blacke Capparisons, in sygne of her heauy
and discontented minde, & his forehead beautified with a
spangled plume of feathers.

CHAP.

Thus

the seuen Champions.

Thus traauled they day and night from the Confines of Armenia, with successfull fortune, till they happily arrived vpon the Iland of the Blacke Castle : where they were constrained to rest themselves manie nights vnder the shaddowes of greene leaved trēs, where the melodie of siluer tuned birds brought them to their swēte sleepes: and in stāde of delicate fare, they were forced to satisfye their hungers with swēte Drenge and ripe Pomegrānates, that grew verie plentifully in that Iland. But vpon a morning, when the skies appeared in they; sightes verie clere and pleasant, and at such time as when the Sunne began to spreād his glistering beames vpon the loftie mountaines and stately Cedars, they set forward on their iourney, hoping before the cloasing in of the Dayes bright countenance, to arriue at the Blacke Castle, bee-
ing their long wist for hauen, and desired Port. But en-
tering into an vknown way and narrow path not much
vsed, they were intercepted by a strange and wonderfull
Aduenture. For as they trauelled in those vntroden pas-
sages, spending the time in pleasant conference, without
mistrusting of anis thing that should happen to them in
that pleasant Iland: vpon a sodaine (not knowing the oc-
cation) their horses started and rose vp with their forefeet,
and turned backward into the aire in such sort, that they
had almost vsadled their Masters: whereat the valiant
Knights vpon a sodaine looked round about them, to see
who or what it was that caused so much feare: but when
they perceived nothing, nor could conicure what should
be the occasion of such terror, they grewe wonderfullie
troubled in minde. Then one began to encourage y rest,
saying: Welcom me Brethren, I muse what should bee
the cause of this alteration in our horses: hath some spirit
glided by vs, or: lodgeth some devill among these bushes?
Whatisoever it be, let vs by the power and fauour of God
attempt to know, and with our warlike weapons re-
uenge the scighting of our horses, for our mindes are vn-
daunted

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daunted by the pouwes of men, nor feared with the furze
of devills.

These woordes being spoken with greate courage and
maiestie, caused Rosana to smile with a chearefull coun-
tenance, and to imboden her heart against all insuing acci-
dents: so presently they came unto a riuver which was both
clere and deepe, the which they iudged to runne quite
throuwe the middle of the Iland: and so trauellung along
by the riuers side, where within a little while their hōsses
began againe to stagger and to be wonderfully affraide,
and casting about their vigilant eyes, to see if they could
perceiue what it shold be that made their hōsses so timi-
rous, they espyed a terrible Monster in the shape and form
of a Satyre or a wilde man, which did crosse overthwarte
the Iland, of a wonderfull greate and strange making,
who was as bigge and broade as any Giant, for he was
almost sonre square: his face was threē scote in length and
had but one eye, & that was in his forehead, which glistred
like unto a blazing Comet or a fierye Planet: his bodys
was couered all ouer with long and shagged haire, like to
the impoysoned stinges of Serpents: and in his brest,
there was as though it had boene a glasse, out of the which
there seemed a great and shining light to proced.

This Monster directed his way towards certaine Roc-
kes of stone which stood in the Iland, and by reason of the
dragling and greate noyse that the hōsses made, he cast
his head aside and espyed the threē Knights trauellung in
companie of the Lady: vpon whiche he had no sooner cast
his blazing eye, but with a devillish furze he ran towards
them, and in stead of a Club, he bare in his hand a mighty
great and knotted Maple tree.

These valiant Knights never dismayde at the sight of
this deformed creature, but against his comming, they
chaered vp their hōsses, and pricked their sides with their
golden spurres, giving a great shoute as a signe of incou-
tagement, and withall, drawinge forth their sharpe cut-
ting

the seuen Champions.

ting swounds they stood attending the furie of the Monster, who came roaring like a Bull, and discharged his knotted tré amongst the magnanimous Knights, who with light leapes cleared themselves from his violent blowes, that his club fell downe to the ground with such a terrible fall, as thogh with the violence it wold haue overthowne a Castle.

With that the Knights presently alighted from theyr horses, thinking thereby more nimbler to defende themselves, and with more courage to assaile the Satyre. Parme were the blowes on both sides, and dangerous the encounter, without signe of victorie inclining vnto cyther partie.

During the Battell, Rosana (through the griefe and feare that she received) swounded vpon her palfrey, & had fallen beside his back, if she had not first closed her hands about the pummell of the saddle: and being come a little vnto her selfe, she made her humble supplication vnto the Gods, soliciting heauen, that she might rather be buried in the Monsters bowells, there by to satisfie hys wraethe, than to see such noble Knights loose the least drop of blood, or to haue the smallest haire vpon their heads diminished: such was the loue and true zeale she boare vnto these three Knights.

But Sa. Georges sonnes so manfully behaued themselves in the Encounter, bearing the prouesse of their fathers minde, that they made manie deepe wounds in the Monsters flesh, and such terrible gashes in his body, that all the greene grasse was couered with his blacke blood, and the ground all to besmeared & strewed with hys manyled flesh.

When the diuelish Monster felte him selfe wounded, and saw how his blood stod vpon the earth like coniealed gore, hee fled from them more swifter than a whirlewinde, or like unto an arrow forced from a musket, and ran in great hast to the Rocke that stood thereby, where presently he

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shrewo himselfe into a Cauue , pulling downe after him a Rocke of stone , which did close vp the entry, the which was done with so great lightnesse, that the Knights had no time to strike him, but after a while when they had blessed themselves to see such a straunge and sodaine thing they assayed by strength to remoue the Rocke , and to cleare the mouth of the Cauue, the which they did without any difficultnes.

Yet for all that they coulde not finde which way they might enter in thereat, but like unto Lyons fraughted with anger, fretting and chafing, they went searching round about the Rock to see if they could espie any entry, and at last they found a great cliffe on the one side of the Rocke, and looking in thereat, they espoyed the monster, lying upon the floore licking of his bleeding wounds with his purple tonge.

And seeing him, one of the Knights said : O then traitor and destroyer by the high waies, O thou infernall devill and enemy unto the world, thou that art the devourer of humane fleshe , and drinker of mans blood, thinke not that this thy strunge and fast closing vp of thy selfe in this Rocke of stone shall anayle thee, or that thy detestable body shall escape unslaughtered out of our handes, no , no our bloudy weapons shal be sheathed in thy detested bowels, and rive thy damned heart asunder , and therewithall they thrust their weapons through the clift of the Rocke, and pearced his throat in such sorte that the monster presently dyed, the which being done they returned in triumph like conquerors to Rosana , whers they founde her halfe dead lying upon her palfrie.

But when shee sawe them returne in safetie like one new risen from death, with a joyfull and loue voice shes said, O God how hath it pleased thy deuine maiestie , to furnish these Knights with more strength and prowess, then any other in all the world, else coulde they not haue chosd but haue beene overcome by this remouable mon-

ster,

the seuen Champions.

ther, which seemed to be of force to destroy kingdoms: therewithall she alighted in good state from her Palstry, and sate her downe vnder the shadow of a Pine-tree, where the thre knights likewise sate downe, & laid theyr wearie heards vpon her soft lap to sleepe, vpon whose faces she sanned a coole breathing ayre, and wiped their sweaty browes with her handkercher, vsing all the meanes shee could to moue them contentment.

Long had they not reposed themselves vpon Rosanaes lappe, refreshing their wearie bodies with a golden sleepe, but they awaked and mounted vpon their steedes, and the next morning by b^reake of day, they approuched the sight of the blacke Castle, before whose walles they found seauen portly steedes, feeding within a greene pasture, and by them an ancient fater, bearing in his face the true picture of sorrowe, and caruing in the barkes of trees the subiect of all his passed grieses: this man was the olde Sheapheard which the seauen Champions of christendome (before their inchaunted sleepes in the Castle) leste without the Gates to ouersee their horses, as you heard before in the last Chapter.

But Saint Georges sonnes (after they had a while beheld the manner of the Sheapheards silent lamentations) demanded the causes of his griesse and wherefore he remained so neare the danger of the Castle: to whose demandes, the curteous olde man answered in this maner.

W^rayne Knights (saide hee) for you seeme to be no lesse by your princely demeanours, within this Castle remaisth a bloody tirant and a wicked homicide, called Leoger, whose tyrannie and lust hath not onely rauished but murthered two of my daughters, with whome I was honored in my yong yeares, in whose revenge there came with me seauen christian knights of seauen severall countries, that entred this accursed Castle about seauen daies since, appointing me to stay without the gates, & to haue a vigilant

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care of their horses, till I heard either newes of the Tyrants confusion, or their ouerthowes: but never since by anie meanes could I learne whether god or bad were be-tived them.

These words strooke such a terror to their hearts, that for a lime they stod speechlesse, imagining that those seauen Knights were the seauen Champions of Christendome, in whose pursutes they had traueld so many countreyes. But at last when Saint Georges Bonnes had recovered their former speches, one of them (thogh not intending to reueale what they imagined) sayd unto the olde Shepheard: that likewise they came to bee reuenged upon that accursed Knight, for the spoyle of a beauteous and worthie Virgine Queene, done by the said lust inflamed Tyrant.

Then the Ladie and the thre Knights alighted from their horses, and likewise committed them to the keepping of the olde Shepheard: who courteously received them, & earnestly prayed for their prosperous proceedings. So the thre Knights buckled close their armours, laced on their helments, and put their shields vpon their armes, and in companie of Rosana they went to the Castle gate, the which glistered against the sunne like burnisht golde: whereat hung a mighty Copper King, wherewith they beate so vehemently against the Gate, that it seemed to rattle like a violent tempestuous storme of thunders in the Element.

Then presently there appeared (looking out at a marble pillow'd window) the Magitian, newly risen from his bed, in a wrought shirt of blacke silke, and couered wyth a night gowne of damaske velvet: and seeing the Knights with the Ladie standing before the gate, he thus discerteously greeted them.

You Knights of strange Countreys said he, so so doth it appeare by your strange demeanours: if you desire to haue the gate opened, and your bones buried in the vaults

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of our Castle, turne backe unto the Jasper piller behinde you, and sound the siluer Trumpet that hangs vpon it, so shall your entrie be easie, but your comming sooth mira-
culous. And therupon the Magitian left the window.

Then one of the Knights went vnto the Jasper piller, and with a vehement breath sounded the enchanted trumpet as S. George did before, whereat the gates flew open in like manner: wherein (without anie disturbance) they entred: & comming into the same Court where þe champions had fought with the Giants, they spied the enchanted Lampes, which hung burning before the entrie of þe caue where the Champions lay vpon the enchanted bed. Under the Lampes hung a siluer tablet in an yron chaine, in it was written these words following.

These fatal lamps with their enchanted lights,
In deaths sad sleep hath shut 7. christé knights
Within this caue they ly with sloth cōfouded
Whose fame but late in eury place resouded.
Except these flaming lampes extinguisht bee,
Their golden thoughts shall sleepe eternally.
A Fountaine framde by furies rais'd from hell,
About whose spring doth fear & terror dwel:
No earthly vwater may suffise but this
To quench the lamp vwhere art cōmander is,
No vyght aliuē this vwater may procure,
But she that is a Virgin chast and pure.
For Nature at her birth did so dispose,
Vpon her breast to print a purple Rose.

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These verses being perused by the threé Knights, & fin-
ding them as it were contrived in the manner of a mysti-
call Oracle, they could not imagine what they should sig-
nifie: but Rosana being singularly well conceated, and of
a quicke vnderstanding, presently knewe that by her the
Aduenture should be finisched, and therefore shee incoura-
ged them to a forwardnes, and to sake out the inchaunt-
ed Fountaine, that by the water thereof the lamps might
be quenched, and the seauen Champions deliuered out of
captiuitie.

This importunate desire of Rosana, caused the threé
yong Knights not to loose ane time, but to search in euery
corner of the Castle, till they had found the place wherin
the Fountaine was: soz as they went towards the North
side of the Court, they espied another little doore standing
in the wall, and when they came to it, they sawe that it
was made all of verie strong yron, with a portal of Steele,
and in the key hole thereof there was a brazen key, with
the which they did open it, whereat prestly (vnto theyr
wonderfull amazements) they heard a verie sad and so-
rowfull voyce breath forth these wordes following.

Let no man bee so foolish hardy, as to enter
here, for it is a place of terror and confusion.

Yet so all this they entered in thereat, and would not
be daunted with ane ceremonious feare, but like knyghts
of an heroycall estimation they went forward: wherein
they were no sooner entred, but they sawe that it was won-
derfull darke, and it seemed vnto them that it shold be a
verie large Hall, and therein they heard verie fearefull
howlings, as though there had bin a legion of helhounds,
or that Plutos Dogge had been vice gerent of that place.
Yet so all this these valiant Knights did not loose anye of
their accustomed courage, nor wold the Ladie leane their
companies for ane danger: but they entred in further, &
ooke

the seuen Champions.

ooke off their gauntlets from their left hands, wheron they wore meruailous great and fine Diamonds, which were set in rings that gaue so much light, that they might plainly see all things that were in the Hall, the which was verie great and wide, and vpon the walls were painted the figures of manie furious fiends and diuellis, wyth other straunge visions scared by Magicke arte, onely to serre the beholders. But looking verie circumspectly about the monuerie sides, they espied the enchanted foun- taine standing directly in the midale of the Hall, towards which they went with their shieldes braced on theyr left armes, and their good swords charged in their hands, ready to withstand anie daungerous accident whatsoeuer shold happen.

But comming to the Fountaine, and offering to fill their helmets with water, there appeared before them a strange and terrible Giphon, which seemed to bee all of flaming fire, who stroke all the thre Knights one after another in such sort, that they were forced to recople backe a great way: yet notwithstanding with great discretion they kept themselves upright, & with a wonderfull lightnesse, accompanied with no lesse anger, they thre w theyr shields at their backes, and taking their swords in both their handes, they began most fiercely to assaile the Giphon with mostall and strong blowes. Then presentlye there appeared before them a whole legion of diuels with flesh-hooches in their handes, spitting forth flames of fire, & breathing from their nosthalls smaking sulphure & brimstone. In this terrible strokemented they these thre valiant Knights, whose yeres although they were but yong, yet with great wrath and redoubled force aduentred they themselves amongst this hellish crew, striking such terrible blowes, that in spite of them they came unto y Fountaine, and proffered to take of the water: but all in vain, for they were not onely put from it by this diuelish compa- nie, but the water it selfe glided from their hands.

¶

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Whin what great trauel and perplexitie these Knights remained amongst this wicked and diuellish generation, for to defend themselves that they might attaine to the finishing of this Aduenture, according to their knightlye promise.

But during the time of all these daungerous encounters, Rosana stood like one bereft of sense, thorough yter, rez of the same: but at last remembryng her selfe of prophete written in the silver tablet, the which the knights perused by the inchaunted Lampes: the signification of which was, that the quenching of the lights should be accomplished by a pure Virgin, that had the lively forme of a Rose naturally pictured upon her breast: all the which Rosana knew most certainly to bee comprehended in her selfe.

Therefore whilste they continued in their fight, she tooke vp a helmet that was pulled from one of the Knights heads by the furious force of the Giphon, and ranne unto the fountaine and filled it with water, wherewith shee quenched the inchaunted Lampes, with as muche ease, as though one had dipped a waxen torch in a myghtie ricer of water.

This was no sooner done and finished to Rosanaes cheefest contentment, when that the heauens began to ware darkie, and the clere skyes to be oversprewed with a blacke & thicke clowd, and it came with great thundryngs & lightnings, alwaies with such a terrible noyse, as though the earth would haue sunke: and the longer it indured, the more was the farie thereof, in such sort that the Giphon wyth all that deluding generation of spirits vanished away, and the Knights tooke their iuersers, and fell upon theyr knies, and with great humilitie they desired of God to be deliuered from the furie of that myghtyng and terrible tempest.

By this sevaine alteration of the heauens, the knight of the Castle knew that the Lampes were extinguished, the

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the Champions redēmed from their inchaunted sleepes
the Castle yelded to the pleasure of the thre knyghts, and
his owne life to the furies of their swords, except hee
serued it by a sodaine flight, so presently hee departed the
Castle, and secretly fled out of the Iland vsuspected by a
nie one: of whose after fortunes, miseries, and death, you
shall heare more hereafter in the course of the historie fol-
lowing.

The Pigmancer by his Arte likewise knew, that
the Castle was yelded vnto his Enemies power, & that
his charmes and magickes spells nothing preuailed: ther-
fore he caused two ayre spirits in the likenes of two Da-
gons to carrie him swiftly through the ayre in an Ebone
Chariot.

Heere we leaue him in his wicked & diuelish attempts
and diuelish enterprises, which shall bee discoursed heere-
after moxe at large: because it appertaineth to our His-
torie now to speake of the seauen Champions of Christen-
dome, that by the quenching of the Lampes were awake-
ned from their inchauntments, wherein they had laine in
obscuritie for the space of seauen dayes. For when they
were risen from their sleepes, and had rowsed vp theyr
drowse spirits, like men newly recovered from a trance,
being ashamed of that dishonorable enterpise, they long
time gazed in each others faces, being not able to expresse
their mindes, but by blushing looks, beeing the silent
speakers of their extreame sorowes. But at last Saint
George began to expresse the extremitie of his griefe in
this manner.

What is become of you braue Europes Champions
(said he) where is now your inuited valors, that hath bin
so much renowned through the wold: what is become of
your surmounting strengthes, that hath bruized inchaun-
ted helmets, and quailed the power of mightie multitudes:
what is become of your terrible blowes, that hath subdu-
ed mountaines, beaten in sunder diamond armours, and

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brought whole kindomes vnder your subiections, now I
see that all is forgotten & nothing worth, so that we haue
buried all our honours, dignities, and fames in slouthfull
summers vpon a silken bed.

And therupon hee fell vpon his knees, and said: thou
holie God, thou ractor of the riding racks of heauen, to thine
I invoke and call, and desirre thee to helpe vs, and doe not
permit vs to haue our fames taken away for this dishonor,
but let vs merite dignities by our victories, and that our
bright renowmes may ride vpon the glorioues winges of
fame, wherby that babes as yet vphorne may speake
of vs, and in time to come fill whole volumes with our
princely atchinements.

These and suchlike reasons pronounced this discontented
Champion, till such time as the elementes cleared, and
that golden-faced Phœbus glistered with splendent bright-
nes into the cane through a secret hole, which seemed in
their conceits to daunce about the vales of heauen, and to
rejoyce at their happie deliveries.

In this joyfull maner returned they vp into the court
of the Castle, with their armors buckled fast vnto their
bodies, which haue not bene vnbuckled in seuen dayes be-
fore, where they met with the thre knyghtes comming
to salute them, and to gine them the courtesies of knyght-
hود.

But when Sainct George saw his knyghtes whome he
had not seene in twice two yeres before he was so rauish-
ed with joy, that he swounded in their bosomes, and not
able to gine them his blessing, so great was the pleasure
he tooke in their sight.

Hence I leau the joyfull greeting betwixt the Father
and his Sons, to those that knowes the secret loue of pa-
rents to their children, and what deare affection long ab-
sence breedeth.

For when they had sufficiently ostended the integrtie
of their soules each to other, and had at large explained
how

the seuen Champions.

how many daungers every Knight and Champion had passed since their departures from England, where as they began first their intended pilgrimage to Jerusalent as you heard in the beginning of this booke, they determined to search the Castle, and to finde out Leoger with his assolate the wicked inchaunter, that they might receiuſ new punishments for their committed offences, but they like wylie foxes were fled from the hunters traces, and had left the emptie Castle to the spoile of the Christian Champions: But when Rosana ſaw her ſelſe diſmift from her purpose, and that ſhe could not perorme her mothers will, againſt her diſloyall Father, ſhe protested by the mightie God of heauen, never to cloſe up her carefull eyes with quiet numbers, nev̄er to lie in her wearie limbes in bed of Dowas, but ſtawell up and downe the circled earth till ſhe injoyd the ſight of her diſloyall Father whome as yet her eyes diſnewſer. Therefore ſhee conſured the Champions by the loue of honor that knights ſhould beare unto Ladies in diſtress, to graunt her libertie to depart and not to hinder her from her intended trauell.

The Knights conſidered with themſelues that this was a Lady of a deuine inspiration, borne into ſtrange ſortune, and one by the hand of appointment which had redemeed them from a wondrefull miserie.

Therefore they condeſcended to her deuice, and not onely gaue her leauue to depart, but furnished her with all thinges belonging to a Ladie of ſo braue a minde.

First they found within the Castle an armoſ fit for a woman, the whiche the inchaunter had cauſed to be made by magick arte of ſuch a ſingular nature that no weapon coulde pierce it, and ſo light in weareing, that it wayed no heuier then a Lions fain, it was conuineuaſter the Amazonian fashion, plated before with Silver plates, like the

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scates of a Dolphin, and giuettred together with golden
nayles: so that when shs had it bypon her backe, shs see-
med like to Diana hunting in the Forrests of transformed
Aetoon.

Likelwise they found (standing in a Stable at the East
side of the Castle) a lustrie limbed Steed, big of stature, &
of a verie good haire, because the halske part forwards was
of the colour of a Wolfe, and the other halske was al black,
saunting that here and there it was spotted with little white
spots: his feete were clouen, so that he needed not at anye
time to be shod: his necke was somewhat long, having a
little head, with great eares hanging downe like a hound:
his pace was with great maiestie, and he so doubled hys
necke, that his mouth touched his breast: there came out
of his mouth two great tuskes like unto an Elephant, and
hee did exceede all horses in the woorlde in lightnes, and byd
runne with an exceeding good grace. This likewise be-
stowed they bypon the Ladie, the which did more content
her minde, than anie thing that ever her eye had saene be-
fore that time. Also she se chrisitian Knights gave her at her
departure ten diamond rings, continually to wear evpon
her ten fingers, in perpetuall remembraunce of their cur-
tesies.

This being done, without anie longer tarriance, but
thanking them for their great kindnes she wend unto her
in distresse, she leapt into the saddle without helpe of stir-
rup or anie other thing, and so rode speedely awaie from
their sightes, as a shower of raine shinen by a violent tem-
pest.

After her departure, the Champions remembred the
olde Shepheard, whom they had almost forgotten, tho-
rough the joy that they take in their happy meetings: he
as yet remained without the Castle gates, carefully keep-
ing their horses, whom now they caused to come in, and
not onely gave him the honour due unto his age, but be-
stowed frausly bypon him the state and government of the
Castle,

the seuen Champions.

Castle, with stoe of iewels, pearles and treasure, onely to be maintained and kept for the relefe of poore Trauellers.

This being perfourmed with their generall consents, they spent the remnant of the day in banqueting and other pleasant conference of their passed Aduentures. And when that Night with her sable clowdes had ouer-spred the Dayes delightfull countenaunce, they betooke them to their rests : the seauen Champions in a chamber that had as manie windowes as there were daies in the yere, the olde Shepheard by himselfe in a rich furnished Par-lour, and Saint Georges three Sonnes in the greatest Hall in the Castle.



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CHAP. X.



How after the Christian Knightes were
gone to bed in the black Castle: Saint George
was awaked frō his sleep in the dead time of
the night, after a most fearefull manner, and
likw ise how he found a Knight lying vpon a
tombe, that stood ouer a flaming fire, with o-
ther thynges that hapned vpon the same.

Most swete were the sleepes that
besydely minded companies
took in the Castle all the first part
of the night, without molestation
cyther by disquiet dreames or dis-
turbing motions of their mindes,
till such time as the glistering
Quene of night had runne halse
her wearie Jorney, and had spent
the better part of the night: sy by betwixt twelve and one,
being the chichell time of feare and terror in the night, such
a straunge alteration worked in Saint Georges thought
that he coulde not enjoy the benefite of swete sleepe, but
was

the seuen Champions.

was forced to lye broad waking like one disquieted by some sodaine feare: but as hee laye with wakefull eyes thinking vpon his passed fortunes, and numburing the minutes of the night with his cogitations, hee heard as it were a cry of night Rauens, which flew beating their fatal wings against the windows of his lodging, by which hee imagined that some direfull accident were neere at hand: yet being not frighted with this fearefull noise, nor daunted with the croking of these Rauens, hee lay silently not revealing it to any of the other Champions that lay in the sixe severall beds in the same chamber: but at last being betwixt waking and sleeping, hee heard as it were the voice of a sorrowfull Knight that constrained these bitter passions from his tormented soule, and they contayned these words following.

Oh thou invincible knight of England, thou that art not frighted with this sorrowful dweling, wherein thou canst see nothing but torments, rise vp I say, from thy sluggish bed, & with thy vndaunted courage and stronge arme, infringe the charme of my iuhaument.

And therewithall hee seemed to gine a most terrible groane and so ceased: This unexpected noyse caused Saint George (without the knowledge of any of the other Champions) to arise from his bedde, and to buckle on his armoi, and to search about the Castle to see if hee might finde the place that harbozed the Knight that made such sorrowfull lamentation.

The second Part of

He going vp and downe the by corners of the Castle, all the latter part of the night, without finding the aduenture of this strange voice, or disturbance by any other meanes but that he was hindred from his naturall and quiet sleepes, but by the b^reake of day, when the darks night began to withdraw her sable curtaines, and to giue Aurora libertie to explayne her purple brightnesse, he entred into a feare square parlor, hunge rounde about with blacke cloth, and other mournfull habiliments, where on the one side of the same he sawe a tombe all couered likewise with blacke, and vpon it there lay a man with a pale colour, who at certaine times, gane mose meruelous and greuous sighes, caused by the burning flames that proceeded from vnder the tombe, being such that it seemed that his body therewith should bee converted into coales: the flame thereof was so stincking that it made Saint George somewhat to retyre himselfe from the place where he sawe that horrible and searefull spectre.

He which lay vpon the tombe, casting his eyes aside, spied Saint George, and knowing him to be a humane creature, with an inflicted voyce he said: Who art thou Sir knight that art come into this place of sorrow, where nothing is heard but clamors of feare and terror?

But tell me said Saint George, who art thou, that with so much griefe hast demandid of me, that which I stand in doubt to reveale to thee.

I am the King of Babilon (answered hee) which without all consideration, with my cruell hand did pearce through the white and delicate brest of my beloued daughter: woe be to me and woe unto my soule therefore: for she at once did pay her offence by death, but I a most miserable wretched with many tormentes doe dye lyving.

When this worthy Champion Saint George was about to answere him, he sawe come boorth from vnder the tombe

the seuen Champions.

combe, a damsell who had her hayre of a yellow and wan colour hanging downe about her shoulders, and by her face she seemed that she shold be verie strangely afflic- ted with tormentes, and with a sorrowfull voyce she said.

Oh unfortunate Knight what doest thou seeke in this infernall lodgynge, where cannot be givyn thee any other pleasure, but mortall torment, and there is but one thing that can cleare thee from them, and this cannot be told thee by any other but by me: yet I will not expresse it ex- cept thou wyl graunt mee one thing that I will aske of thee.

The English Champion that with a sad countenance stood beholding of the sorrowful damsel, and being great- ly amazed at the sight which he had seene, answered and said: The Gods which are governours of my liberty, wil doe their pleasures, but touching the graunt of thy re- quest I never denied any lawfull thing to either Lady or Gentlewoman, but with all my power and strength I was ready to fulfill the same, therfore demannde what thy pleasure is, for I am readie in all thinges that touch- eth thy remedie.

And with that the damsel threw her selfe into that se- pulcher, and with a greenous voice she said. Nowe moste courteous Knight performe thy promise: strike but thre stroakes vpon this fatall tombe, and thou shalt deliuer vs from a world of mizeries, and likewise make an ende of our continuall tormentes.

Then the invincible knight replied in this order, whe- ther you be humane creatures said he, placst in this sepulcher by inchgurement, or furies raisd from fiery Acheron to worke my confusion or no I know not, and there is so little truth in this infernall Castle, that I stand in doubt whether I may believe thy words or not: but yet discoure unto me the truth of all your passed sortunes, and by what anes you were brought into this place, and as I am a

The second Part of

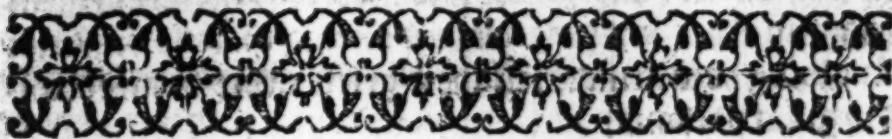
true Christian knight, and one that fights in the quarrell
of Christ, I vow to accomplish whatsover lyeth in my
power.

Then the Damsel began with a greuous and sorrow-
full lamentation, to declare as strange a tragedie as euer
was told. And lying in the satall Sepulcher, vnsene of
Saint George, that stood leaning his backe agaynst the
wall to heare her discourse and lamentable storie : with
a hollow voice like a murthered Ladie, whose bleeding
soule as yet did feele the terrible stroke at her death, shew
repeated this pittifull tale following.



CHAR.

the severi Champions.



CHAP. XI.

Of a tragical Discourse pronounced by a Ladie in a Toombe: and hovvher Inchauntment vvas finished by saint George, vwith oþer straunge accidents that hapned to the other Christian Knights.

The famous Babylon sometimes reigned a King, although a Heathen, yet adorned with noble and vertuous customes, and had onely one Daughter that was verie faire, whose name was Angelica, humble, wise, and chaste: who was beloved of a righte Duke, & a man wonderfull curring in the Blacke arte. This Magitian had a severe & graue countenance, and one that for wisedome better deserved þ government than ane other in the kingdome; and was verie well esteemed throughout all Babylon, almost equally with the king: for the which there ingendred in the kings heart a secret rancour and hatred towards him. This Magitian cast his loue upon the young Princeesse Angelica, and it was the Gods will that she should reape him with the same affection; so that both their hearts beeing

The second Part of

Wounded with loue the one to the other, in such sorte that the fire kindled dayly more and more, and neither of them had any other imagination but onelye to loue: and not knowing how to manifest their grieses, they indured sundry great passions.

Then loue which continually seeketh occasions, did on a time set before this Magician a waighting maid of Angelicaes, named Fidela: the which thing seemed to be wrought by the immortall power of the Goddesse Venus: oh what feare this Magician was in to discouer unto her all his heart, and to bewray the secrets of his loue sickle soule: but in the end, by the great industrie and diligence of the waighting Maid (whose name was answerable unto her minde) there was order given that these two louers shuld meete together.

This faire Angelica, for that she could not at her ease enjoy her true Louer, she did determine to leue her own naturall Countrey and Father: and with this intention being one night with her Loue, she cast her armes about his necke and said,

Oh my swete and welbeloved fren, seeing that the soueraigne Gods haue been so kinde to me, as to haue my heart linked in thy brest, let me not finde in thee ingratitude, for that I cannot passe my time, except continually I enjoy thy sight: and do not muse (my Lord) at these my wordes, for the entye loue that I beare to you, deoth constraine me to make it manifest. And this beleue of a certaintie, that if thy sight be absent from me, it will bee an occasion that my heart will lacke his vitall recreatiōn, and my soule to forsake his earthly habitation. You knowe (my Loode) howe that the King my Father dooth haue you no good will, but both hate you from hys brest, which will be the occasion that we cannot enjoy our harts contentments: so, the louing I have determined (if you thinke well therof) to leue both my Father and my naturall Countrey, and to goe and liue with you in a strange Land.

the seuen Champions.

Land. And if you denie me this, you shall verie quickly
see your welbeloued Ladie without life : but I know you
will not denie me it, for theron consisteth the benefits of
my welfare, and my chescast prosperitie. And therewith,
all shedding a few teares from her christall eyes, she held
her peace.

The Magitian (as one halfe rauished with her earnest
desires) answered and said.

My Lous and sweete Mistres, wherefore haue you a-
nie doubt that I will not fulfill and accomplish your de-
sire in all things ? therefore out of hand put all things in
a readines that your pleasure is to haue done : for what
more beneftite and contentment can I receaue, than to em-
ploy your sight continually, in such sort that neither of vs
may depart from the others companie, till the fatall De-
stancies give end unto our liues. But if it so fall out that
fortune strokne vpon vs, that wee bee espied and taken in
our enterprize, and suffer death together, what more glo-
rie can there be vnto my soule, than to dye with thee, and
to leaue my life betwixt thy armes ? Therefore do not
trouble your selfe my sweete Ladie and Mistres, but give
me leaue for to depart your presence, that I may provide
all things in a readines for our departures. And so wyth
this conclusion they tooke leaue one of the other, and de-
parted away with as great secrecie as might possibly be
devised.

After this within a fewe dayes, the Magitian by hys
Inchantments caused a Chariot to bee made, that was
gouerned by two flying Dragons into the which without
being espied by anie one, they put themselves, in compa-
nie of their trustie waighting Maid : and so in great secret
they departed out of the Kings Wallace, and tooke they
journey towards the Countrey of Armenia : in the which
Countrey in a shorke time they arrived, and came without
anie misfortune vnto a place whereas deepe riuers do
continually strike vpon a mightie rocke, vpon the which

The second Part of

God an olde and ancient building, wherein they inten-
ded to inhabit as a most conuenient place for their dwel-
lings, whereas they might without all feare of beeing
found, live peacefullie in toying in each others loue.

Not farre from that place there was a small Village,
from whence they might hane necessarie provision for the
maintayning of their bodies: great ioy and pleasure these
two Louers received when they founde themselves in
such a place wheras they might take their ease and injoy
their louers.

The Magitian delighted in no other thing but to goe
a hunting with certaine Countrie dwellers that inhabi-
ted in the next Village, leauing his sweete Angellica ac-
companied with her trustie Fidela in that stronge house,
so in this order they liued together fourre yeares, spending
their daies in great pleasure: but in the end tyme (who
never resteth in one degree) did take from them their rest
and repayed them with sorrow and extream mizerie. For
when the King her father found her missing, the sorrowe
and griefe was so much that he received, that he kept his
chamber a long tyme, and would not be comforted of anie
bodie.

Fourre yeares he passed away in great heauinesse, fil-
ling the Counte with Echoes of his beloved daughter,
and making the skies to resound his lamentations: sor-
rowe was his stode, saltte teares his drinke, and griefe his
chiese companion.

But at last, vpon a tyme as he sat in his Chayze la-
menting her absence with great heauinesse, and beeing
ouercharged with griefe, he chancst to fall into a trou-
sone dreame, for after quiet sleepe had closed vp the clo-
sets of his eyes, he dreameid that he saw his daughter stan-
ding vpon a Rocke by the sea side, offeringe to cast her body
into the waues before she would returne to Babylon, and
that he beheld her Louer with an armee of 40000 and
wilde men ready furnished with habiliments of warre to
pull

the feuen Champions.

pull him from his Throne, and to depigne him of hys
Kingdome.

Out of this vision he p[re]sently started from his chaire,
as though it had been one frightened with a legion of spirits,
and caused four of the ch[ie]f[est] Peeres of his Land to bee
sent for, to whom he committed the gouernement of hys
Countrey: certesying them that he intended a voyage to
the Sepulcher at Memphis, thereby to qualifie the furie
of his Daughters ghost, whom he dreamed to be drowned
in the seas, and that except he sought by true submission to
appease the angrie heauens, whom hee had offended by
his unnaturall sorowes, hee should be deposed from hys
Kingdome.

None could withdraw him from this determination,
though it was to the prejudice of his whole Land, there-
fore within twentie dayes he furnished himselfe with all
necessaries as well of armour and martiall furniture, as
of golde and treasure, and so departed from Babylon pri-
uately and alone, not suffering anie other (though many
desirid it humbly, and were verie earnest) to beare hym
companie.

But he travelled not as he told his Lords after any ce-
remonious order, but like a bleud-hound searching Coun-
try after Countrey, Nation by Nation, and Kingdome
by Kingdome, that after a barbarous manner hee might
be reuenged vpon his Daughter for her disobedience. And
as he travelled, there was no caue, den, wood nor wilder-
nesse, but he furiously entered, and diligentely searched for
his Angelica.

At laſt by ſtrange fortune he happened into Armenia,
verre vnto ths place where as his Daughter had her reſi-
dence: where, after he had intelligence by the Commons
of that Countrey, that ſhe remained in an olde ruynated
Building on the top of a rocke neare at hand, without a-
nie more tariance he travelled vnto that place, at ſuch a
time as þ Magitian her louing Husband was gone about
his

The second Part of

his accustomed hunting: where comming to the gate and finding it lockt, hee knockt thereat so furiously, that hee made the noyse to resound all the houle ouer, with a redoubling Echo.

When Angelica heard one knocke, she came unto the gate and with all sped did open it. And when she thought to imbrace him, thinking it to be her Lover, she saw that it was her Father, and with a sodain alteration she gaue a great shrike, and ran with all the sped she could backe into the house.

The King her Father being somewhat angrie, like a furious Lion followed her, saying: It dooth little auayle thee Angelica to run away, for that thou shalt dye by thys renegesfull hand, paying me with thy death the great dis- honour that my roiall crowne hath now by thy slight re- ceaved.

So he followed her till he came to the chamber where her wayting Maid Fidela was, who likewise presentlie knew the King: vpon whose wrathfull countenance ap- peared the image of pale death, and fearing the harme that should happen unto her Ladie, she put her selfe ouer her boodie, and gaue most terrible, lowd, and lamentable shikes.

The King as one kindled in wrath, and forgetting the naturall loue of a Father towards his Childe, hee laid hand vpon his sword, and said: It dooth not profit thee Angelica to flie from thy death: for thy desert is such, that thou canst not escape from it: for heere mine owne arme shall be the killer of mine owne Childe: and I unnaturally hate that, which Nature it selfe commaundeth me espesi- ly to loue.

Then Angelica with a countenance more red than scarlet, answered and said: Ah my Lord and Father, wil you be now as cruell unto me, as you had woon to be kind and pitifull? appease your wrath, and withdraw your unmercifull sword, and hearken unto this which I saye in

the seuen Champions.

In discharging my selfe in that you charge mee wshall ,
you shall understand my Lord and father, that I was o-
uercome and constrained by loue for to loue, sozgetting all
fatherly loue and my dutie towardes your Maestie : yet
for all that, haunting power to accomplish the same, it was
not to your dishonour in that I line honorablie with my
husband : then the King (with a visage fraught with ter-
rible ire) more liker a dragon in the woods of Hercania
then a man of meeke nature, answered and said :

Thou viperous brat, degenerate from natures kinde,
thou wicked Traitor to thy generation, what reason hast
thou to make this false excuse, when as thou hast commit-
ted a crime that deserves more punishment then humaine
nature can inflicte: and in saying these wordes, he lift vp
his sword, intending to strike her unto the harte and to
bathe his weapon in his owne daughters bloud, Whereat
Fidela being present, gaue a terrible shrike and threw her
selfe vpon the body of vnhappy Angelica, offring her ten-
der brest to the furie of his sharpe cutting sword onely to
set at libertie her deare Lady and Misresse.

But when the furious King sawe her in this sorte
make her defense, he pulled her off oy the haire of the heid,
offring to trample her delicate body vnder his fete, there-
by to make a way that he might execute his determined
purpose without resistance of any.

Fidela When she sawe the King determined to kill his
daughter, like unto a Lyonsse she hung about his necke ,
and said : thou monstrous murtherer , more crueller then
mad oogs in Egipt, why dost thou determine to slaughter
the moste chaste and loyallest Ladie in the worlde: even
she within whose lappe vnlamed Lyons will come and
sleepe:

Thou arte thy selfe (I say) the occasion of all this
euill, and thyne onely is the faulfe, for that thy selfe wert
so malicious and so full of mischiefe, that shee durst not let
thee understand of her sodaine loue.

The second Part of

These wordes and teares of Fidela did little profitte to
mollifie the Kings heart, but rather like a wylde Boare
in the wildernes beeing compassed about with a compa-
nie of Dogges, doth shake his members: euen so did thys
King shake himselfe, and thre w Fidela from him in such
sort, that he had almost dasht her braines against the chā-
ber walls, and with double wrath hee did procure to cre-
cute his furie. Yet for all this, Fidela with terrible shikes
sought to hinder him, till such time as with his cruel hand
he thrust the poynt of his sword in at her breast, so that it
appeared forth at her backe, whereby her soule was for-
ced to leaue her terrestriall habitation, and flye into Pa-
radice to those blessed soules, which dyed for true loues
sake.

Thus this vnhappie Angelica, when shee was most at
quiet, and content with her prosperous life, then Fortune
turned her unconstant wchāle, and cast her from a glo-
rious delight to a sodaine death.

The prefull King, when he beheld his daughters blood
sprinkled about the chamber, and that by his own hands
it was committed, he repented himselfe of the dēde, and
accursed the bower wherin y first motion of such a crime
entered into his minde, wishing the hand that did it ever
after might be lame, and the heart that did contrive it to
be plagued with more extremities, than was miserable
Oedipus: as to be terrifid with her ghastly spirit, as was
the Macedonian Alexander with Clitus shadow, whom he
causeles murdered.

In this manner the unfortunate King repented hys
Daughters bloodie Tragedie, with this determination,
not to stay till the Magitian returned from his Hunters
exercise, but to exclude himselfe from the companie of all
men, & to spend the remnant of his loathsome life among
untamed beasts in some wilde wildernes. Upon this re-
solution he departed the chamber, and withall said: Far-
well thou liuelesse boode of my Angelica, and may thy blood
which

the seuen Champions.

which I haue spilt, craue vengeaunce of the Gods against
my guiltie soule, soz my earthly bodie shall induce a mis-
erable punishment. Likewise at his departure he wxit vp-
pon þ chamber wals these verses following in his daugh-
ters blood.

For now to hills, to dales, to rockes, to caues I gee,
To spend my dayes in shameful sorrow, griefe & woe.

Fidela (after the departure of the King) vscd such vio-
lent fury against her selfe, both by rending the golden tra-
mells of her hayre, and tearing her Rosie coloured face
with her furious nayles, that shee rather seemed an infer-
nall Furie subiect to wrath, than an earthly creature fur-
nished with clemencie.

She sat ouer Angelicaes bodie, wiping her bleeding bo-
osome with a damaske scarffe, which shee pulled from her
waist, and bathing her dead bodie in luke-warme tears,
which forcibly ranne downe from her eyes like an ouer-
flowing Fountaine.

In this wosfull manner spent þ sorrowfull Fidela that
unhappie day, till bright Phcebus went into the westerne
seas: at which time the Magitian retourned from his ac-
customed hunting, and finding the doore open, he entered
into Angelicaes chamber, where when he found her bodie
weltring in congealed blood, and beheld how Fidela sate
weeping ouer her bleeding wounds, he cursed himselfe, soz
that he accompted his negligence þ occasion of her death,
in that he had not left her in more safetie. But whrn Fi-
dela had certesed him, how that by the hands of her owne
Father she was slaughtered, he began like a frantickie ty-
rant to rage against heaven and earth, and to fill the ayre
with terrible exclamations.

Oh cruell murtherer (said he) crept from the womb of
some vntamed Tyger: I wilbe so revenged vpon thee, O
vnaturall king, that all ages shal wonder at thy misery.

The second Part of

And likewise thou unhappy Virgin, shalt indure like punishment, in that thy accursed tung hath bruted this fatal deed unto my eares: the one for committing the crime and the other for reporting it. For I will cast such deserved vengeance upon your heads, and place your bodies in such continuall torments, that you shall lament my Ladie's death, leauing aline the fame of her with your lamentations.

And in saying these words, he drew a Booke out of his bosome, and in reading certaine charmes and inchaunments that was therein contained, he made a great & terrible blacke clowde appeare in the skies, which was broght by terrible and hastie windes, in the which he tooke them vp both, and brought them into this inchaunted Castle, where ever since they haue remained in this Tombe, cruelly tormented with unquenchable fire: and must eternally continue in the same extremitie, except some courteous Knight will vouchsafe to gine but thre blowes upon the Tombe, and breake the inchauntment.

Thus haue you heard you magnanimitous Knights, the true discourse of my unhappy fortunes. For the virgine which for the true loue she bore unto her Ladie was committed to this torment is my selfe: and this pale body lying vpon the Tombe, is the unhappy Babylonian King which vnnaturally murthered his owne Daughter: and the Magitian which committed all these villanies, is that accursed wretch, which by his charmes and diuellish Enchaunments hath so strangely withstood your valiant encounters.

These words were no sooner finished, but Ma. George drew out his sharpe cutting sword, and gane thre blowes vpon the inchaunted Tombe, whereat presentlie appeared the Babylonian King standing before him, attyred in rich robes, with an Emperiall Diadem vpon his head: & the Ladie standing by him, with a countenance more beuiful than the sunneske Rose.

the seuen Champions.

When Saint George beheld them, he was not able to speake for joy, nor to utter his minde, so exceeding was the pleasure that he tooke in their sights. So without anie long circumstance, he tooke them betwixt both his handes, and led them into the chamber, where as hee found the other Knights newly risen from their beds. To whom hee revealed the true discourse of the passed Adventure, and by what meanes he redēmed the King and the Lady from their inchauntments: which to them was as great ioye, as before it was to Saint George.

So, after they had for some sise dayes refreshed themselves in the castle, they generally intended to accompany the Babylonian King into his Countrey, and to place him againe in his Regiment.

In which trauel we wil leauue the Christian knights to the conduction of Fortune, and returne againe unto Rosana, whom (as you heard before) departed from the Castle in the pursute of her disloyal father: of whose strange accidents shall be spoken in this following Chapter.



The second Part of



C H A P. X I L

How the Knight of the Blacke Castle after the conquest of the same by the christian chāpions, wanded vp and downe the vworld in great terror of conscience, and after hovv he was found in a wood by his own daughter, in whose presence he desperately slew himselfe, with other accidents that after hapned.



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the seuen Champions.

her honour, and the confusyon of his reputation. Some-
time his guiltie minde imagined, that the bleeding ghosts
of the two Sisters (whom he both rauished and murthe-
red) followed him vp and downe, haunting his ghost with
fearfull exclamations, and filling each corner of the earth
with clamours of revengement.

Such feare and terrour raged in his soule, that he
thought all places where he trauelled, were filled with
multitudes of knyghtes, and that the strenght of Coun-
tries pursued him, to heape vengeance vpon his guiltye
head for those wronged Ladys.

Whereby hee cursed the hower of his birth, and bla-
med the cause of his creation, wishing the Heauens to
consume his bodye with a flashe of fire, or that the earth
would gape and swallowe him: In this manner trauel-
led he vp and downe, filling all places with Echoes of
his sorowes and griefe, which brought him into such a
perplexitie, that many times hee would haue slaine him-
selfe, and haue ridde his wretched soule from a worlde of
mizeries.

But it happened that one morning very early, by the
first light of Titans golden toarch, he entred into a narow
and straight path, which conducted him into a very thicke
and solitarie forrest, wherein with much sorowe he tra-
uelled till suche time as glistering Phcebus had passed the
halfe parte of his iorney.

And beeing wearye with the longe waye, and the
greate waigthe of his Armour, hee was forced to take
some rest and ease vnder certaine freshe and græne My-
rtle trees, whose leaues did bathe themselues in a faire and
cleare Fountaine, whose streme made a bubling mur-
mure on the pebble.

Beeing set, he began a newe to haue in remembrance
his former committed cruelty, and complaining of Fortune
he published his great griefe, and although he was wea-
ry of complaining, and seeing himselfe without all remedy,
he

The second Part of

he resolved like unto the Swans to sing awhile before his death: and so thinking to give some ease unto his tormented heart, he warbled forth these verses following.

Mournfull Melpomine approach with speed,
and shew thy sacred face with teares beſprēt:
Let all thy ſisters harts vwith ſorrow bleed
To heare my plaints and rufull diſcontent.
And vwith your moanes ſweet Mufes all aſſiſt
My vvaliſfull ſong, that doth on vvoe coniſt.

And then I may at large paint out my paine,
Within theſe deſert groues and vwildernesſe:
And after I haue ended to complaine,
They may record my vvoes and deep diſtres:
Except theſe myrtle trees relentles bee,
They vwill vwith ſobs aſſiſt the ſighes of mee.

Time vveares out life, it is reported ſo,
And ſo it may I vwill it not denie:
Yet haue I tride long time, & this do knovve,
Time giues no ende to this my miferie.
But rather fortune, time and heauens agree,
To plague my hart vwith vvoe eternally.

ye ſiluan nimphs that in theſe wods do ſhroud
To you my mournfull ſorrowves I declare:

You

the seuen Champions.

You sauge satyrs let your eates be bound
to heare my woe, your sacred selues prepare:
Trees, herbs & flowers, in rural fields that groe,
While thus I morne, do you some silence shew.

Sweet Philomel cease thou thy songs a vvhile
And vwill thy mate their melodies to leue:
And all at once attend my mournfull stile,
vvhich vvil of mirth yor sugred notes bereauie
If you desire the burthen of my Song:
I sigh and sob, for Ladies I did vvrong.

You furious Beasts that feed on montains hye,
And restlesse run with rage your pray to find:
Dravve nere to him vvhose brutish craultye
Hath cropt the bud of Virgins chaste & kind.
This onely thing yet rests to comfort mee:
Repentance comes a while before I dye.

Since heauen is agree for to increase my care,
What hope haue I for to enjoy delight?
Sith fates and fortune do themselues prepare,
To vwork against my soule their full despight.
I know no meanes to yeld my hant reliete:
But only death, which can defolue my griefe.

The second Part of

I muse and may my sorrowes bring such, Y
That my poore hart can longer lite softwinc: 1
Sith dayly I doe find my griefe so much, 2
As every day I feele a dying paine. 3
But yet alas I liue afflicted still: 4
And haue no helpe to heale me of my ill. 5

When as I thinke vpon my pleasures past,
Now turned to paine, it makes me rue my state
And since my joy vwith vwoe is ouercast,
O death giue ende to my vnhappy fate.
For onely death will lasting life prouide:
Where liuing thus, I sundry deathes abide.

Wherfore all you that hear my mornful song
And tasted haue the griefe that I sustaine:
All lustfull trauishers that haue done vvrong,
With teare-fild eyes assit me to complaine.
All that haue beeing, doe my beeing hate:
Crying haste, haste, this vvretches dying state

Et his sorrowfull song being done, he laid himself all along upon the graine gracie cloing by the closets of his eyes, in hope to see him selfe in a quarsipe, and to a somwhat more confortable thoughts in which silent contente plation he will leave him for a hystrie, and returne to Ro-

Digitized by

the seven Champions.

From the Dictionaegyptiorum Armeniae that bold Amazonian Lady, whome you remember hir to be departed from the blacke Castle (clad withe enchanted armour) in the pursofe of her disloyall father, whome she never in her life beheld: this courteous Lady (to performe her mothers will) travellled vp and downe strange countreyes, many a longe step, yet never could she meet with her unkind father, unto whome she was commaunded to gree her mothers letter, neither could she beare in any place where soone she came, where shee might goe to seeke him: in which travell shee met with many strange adventures, the which with great hono: to her name shee filded, yet for all this shee wandred ouer hils and dales: mountaines and hallyes, and through many solitary wodds. But at last she hapned by fortune into the wildernesse, whereas this discontented knyght lay sleeping vpon the greene grasse, neare to which place shee likewise reposed her selfe vnder the branches of a Chesnut tree, desiring to take some rest after her longe travell.

But vpon a sodaine being betwyl walking and sleep-
ing, shee heard tomedes her left hand, a verie dolorous
grone, as if were of some sorrowfull knyght, which
was so terrible, heaue, and bitter, that it made her
to give an attentione eare vnto the sounde, and to see
if shoo coulde heare and understande what it shoulde
be.

So with making the least noyse that shoo coulde possi-
bly, she arose vp and went tolwardes the place whereas
shee might see what it was, and there shoo behelde a
knyght very well armid, lying vpon the greene grasse,
vnder certayne sage and greene myrtle trees, his
armour was all russet, and full of barres of blacke steele,
which shoo knew to bee a very sadde, sorrowfull and hea-
vie in armelling, agreeable to the inward sadnessse of hys
heart.

Shee was somewhat of a bigge stature of boode, and

The second Part of

well proportioned, and there framed by his disposition, to be in his counte great straunge, where after shes had a noble flood of fayre burninge, his fayre shewfull counteance, in a woefull manner hee fayled his selfe to bedge vpon the greene grasse, and with a fayre heauy looke hee breated forth this ruefull lamentacion.

Oh heauye and pernicious faytune (said he) why doest thou consent that so vile and evill a wretched vre breathe so long vpon the earth, vpon whose wicked heade the golden Sonne distaineth to shone, and the glistening Elementes de-
prece their chearefull ligthes?

Oh that fayre famous Parvey woulde weele frens
his name, and make his loathsome boordes my fatale
Combe, or that my eyes were ligthes like the miserabile
King of Thebes, that I never might againe beholde this
earth, whereon I haue long vndone and committed many
crudities.

I am conuicted suith the counte of heauen for swong-
ing that Papken Quental of Armenia, in the spoyle of
whose virginitie I made a triumphant conquest.

Oh Leeger Leeger, what vngreueitnes this to com-
mitte so great a sinne, in leauing her faynd with thy last,
and dishonored by thy vngentilesse.

Oh emall and vncouert fayf, thou hauest nurst with
the haikynysse wylle of diuers, and haue into the knyfes
for thine shone to myn: where was thy vnderstanding
when thou foolest thy gretous plemente? I haue not
only vndone to the barberbie, jorne amboorne, but ther-
with a thousand ambe golde (Dianas, and the other
two thousand Craynes, and more monys vpon the hundre
thousand) by faynes vpon my knyf, and by thy faynes
of knyf, and my chayrelynesse.

Oh fayf, fayf, fayf, who shal fill this ayre with lamenta-
cione, and make the greene earth to wele, without all re-
medye? so haue of counte of this being said, hee gaue a pri-
uete and fayfable fayre knyf to helpe his purpose.

the seuen Champions.

Rosana by those heauys and sorrowfull lamentations, together with his reasons which shes heard, knew him to bee her disloyall Father after whom shes had so long tranchied to flie out: but when she remembred how that his infidencie was the death of her mother, her harte indured such extreme paine and sorow, that she was constrained (without anys feeling) to fall downe to the ground.

But yet her courageous harte would not remaine long in that passion: but straight waies shes rose vp againe on her feete, with a desire to perforne her mothers will, but yet not intending to discouer her name, nor to reueale her to him that shes was his daughter: so with this thought and determination, shes went unto the place where Leoger was, who when he heard the noyes of her comming, straightway started upon his feete.

Then Rosana did salute him with a voyce some what heauy, and Leoger did returne his salutatio with no lesse shewe of griefe.

Then the Amazonian Lady took forth the letter from her naked breste, where as so longe time she had kept it, and in delivering it into his handes, she said:

Is it possible that thou art that forgetfull and disloyall Knight, the which left the unfortunate Queene of Armenia (with so great paine and sorow) dig with Childe amongste those banckersfull Tyrantes her Countrmen, which banished her out of her Countrie in reuenge of thy committid crime, wheresoeuer since she hath bene companion with halfe heauis that in their natures hath lamented her banishment?

Leoger when he heard her to say these words began to beholde her, and although his eyes were all to be blabbered and weary of weeping, yet he most earnestly gazed in her face and answered her in this manner.

I will not deny this gentle Amazon (said he) that which the high heauens darke complaine off and the lowe earth

The second Part of

card both moarne so. Then shalt understand that I am
the same Knight, whom thou hast demanded after, tell
me therefore what is thy will.

My will is said she, thou most ungrateful Knight, that
thou read here this Letter, the last wroghte of the white
hand of the unhappy Armenian Queen.

At which words, the Knight was in trouble in thought
and grieved in minde, that it was almost the occasion to
desolue his soule from his boode: and therewithal putting
forth his hand somwhat trembling, he tooke the Letter, &
set him verie sorrowfully downe vpon the greene grasse:
Without anie power to the contrary, his greefe so aboun-
ded the bounds of reason.

No sooner did he open the letter, but he presently knew
it to be written by the hands of his wronged Ladie the Ar-
menian Queen, who with great alteration both of hart &
minde, he read the sorrowfull lines, the which contained
these words following.



The Queene of Armenia her Letter.



Other thou disloyall Knight of the
Blache Castle, the unfortunate
Queen of Armenia, can neither
send nor wish salutations: for ha-
ving no health my selfe, I cannot
send it unto him, whose cruel mind
hath quite forgotten my true loue,
I cannot but lament continuallye
and complain unto the Gods inces-
santly,

the seuen Champions.

rettantly, considering that my fortune is converted from a crowned Queen to a miserable and banished captiue; where the savage beastes are my chise companions, & the mournefull bodes my best solliceters. Oh Leoger, Leoger, why didst thou leau me comfortlesse without all cause, as did Aeneas his unfortunat Dido? what second loue hath bereaued me of thy sight, and made thee forget her, that euer shall remember thee. Oh Leoger, remember the day when first I saw thy face, which day bee satall emeruore, and counted for a dismal day in me to come, both heauy, blacke, and full of soule mischances, for it was unhappie unto me: for in giving shē joy, I bereaued my selfe of all, and lost the possession of my libertie and honour: althogh thou hast not esteemed nor take care of my sorrowfull fortunes, yet thou shouldest not haue mockt my perfections, and disdained the seruent affection that I haue borne thee, in that I haue yelded to thee that precious ie well, y which hath been denied to manie a noble King. Oh Loue, cruel and spitefull Loue, that so quickly diest make me blinde, and depryued mee of the knowledge that belonged unto my roiall Hignesse.

Oh encartous Knight, beeing blinded with thy loue the Queen of Armenia denied her honestie which shes ought to haue kept, and preserued it from the biting canker of disloyall loue: Hadst thou pretended to mocke me, thou shouldest not haue suffered me to haue lost so much as is forgoone for thy sake.

Tell me, why diest not thou suffer mee to execute my will, that I might haue opened my white brest with a pearcing sworde, and sent my soule to the shady banke of swete Elizium? Then had it bee better for me to haue died, than to liue still, and dayly die.

Remember thy selfe Leoger, and behold the harm I hat will come hereof: haue thou a care unto the paton which thou leſt sealed in my membre, and let it bee an occasion that thou doest (after all thy violent wronges) returns

The second Part of

to lie me sleeping in my tombe, that my childe may not remaine fatherless in the power of wilde beastes, whose hearts are from above with nothing but knyghte craultie. Doe not contynue that this vertuous loue which I beare the, shalbe contynued vaine, but rather perfoume the promise the which thou hast donid me.

Shakias Leager, O swell and beare heart, is al
thoude the firme lone that so faintlye thou diest professe
fame? what is he that hath bane more unmercifull then
thou hast beene? There is no bane but nor lurking Li-
on in the deserts of Libia, whose unmercifull paces are
all besmearede in blode, that is to swell parted as thy self,
sighs wanton thy warre leave me constreyned, spending my
days in solitarie woe, where as the Tylers mourne at
my distresse, and chyring bries in their bannes, gracie
at my lamenacione the unmercifull tormentors and for-
cruelnes of thy fende are so many, that if my penne were
mine of Ladiam stede, and my hande the purple Ocean, yet
could not I write the number of them.

and now I determine to annihilate this of my desired death, for in writing this my last will, the fates are cutting a shorter my chain of life, and I can give the mortal coil of no more. but yet I prefer this by the true law (will) I have done, that you will read with some respect (for the law holds and here are the powers of human, that before that you might say this death that the God of all made by me. Signed in 21 days.

By her vvhich did yeeld vnto thee her
life, Loue, Honor, Fame
and Liberty.

卷之三

the seven Champions.

VVhen this sad and heauie knight had made
an end of reading this dolozous letter, hee
could not restraine his eyes from distilling
salte teares, so great was the griefe that his hart sustaine:—
Rosana did likewise bear him company to solemnize his
heauiness, with as manye teares trickling from the Con-
duite of her eyes.

The greates sorowe and lamentation was such and so
much in both their hartes, that in a great space the one
coulde not speake unto the other: but afterwardes, their
grieves being somewhat appeased, Leoger began to say.

My messenger, from her with the remembrance of
whose wronge my soule is wounded, being undeservedly
of me euill rewarded: tell me (even by the nature of true
loue) if thou doest knowe where she is: shewe unto me her
abiding place, that I may goe thither and give a discharge
of this my great fault, by yielding unto death.

My cruell and without loue (answered Rosana) what
discharge canst thou give unto her, that alreadye (thorow
thy cruetie) is dead and buried: onely by the occasion of
such a forsworne knight.

This penitent and payned knight, when he understood
the certaintie of her death, with a souaine and hastie fury
he stroake him selfe on the cheare with his fist, and lifting
his eyes unto the heauens, in manner of exclamation a-
gainst the Gods, giuing deepe and sorrowfull sighes,
he stroake him selfe to the ground, tumbling and wallow-
ing from the one part unto the other, without taking any
ease, or having anye power or strenght to declare his in-
ward grieves whiche at that time he felte, but with lamenta-
tions whiche did torment his hart, he called continually on
the Armenian Queen, and in that devilish furze wherein
he was, draw out his dagger and lifting vp the skirt of his
robe or vesture, he thrust it into his body, and giuing himself
this unhappy death (with calling upon his wodged Lady,
he finished his life, and fell to the ground.

The second Part of vs

This sad and beanie Ladie whoe beheld him to de-
spare into geage his martiall breast, and to fall lueleste
to her, with the greater reported her selfe that he had not
disgraced her name, and repented to her selfe that shee
was his misfortune. Daugter, whoe in face beseech
time he never had beheld; and as a Lion of brach all too
late) whoe steyng before her eyes her yong blone thynning
treated of the water, such is shee can drake her malteo-
ned blacher, and with great speede pulle off vnto his ffe
his wounded heade, and unhasted his armur, the which
was in colour according to his passion, but as similars to
his Diamond, made by Magicke arte, Also hee stode a
man his sheld, whiche was of a russet stile, and in y vnde-
rest thereof was portrayed the God of loue with two fa-
ces, the one was verie faire, and bound about his hede with a cloth
his eyes, and the other was ynde, meane, large, and
furious.

His being done, with a faire kinnes clothe hee loppeth
off the bloud from his mortall face. And when shee was oer-
eaine that it was him after whom shee had trausled so man-
ie wearie steps, and that he was without life, with a sum-
mous madnes shee her affre from her heade, and al-
so rent her golden haire, tearing this pece, and then re-
turned againe and lymed that infernall face making such
sorrowfull lamentation, that whosoever had seene her
would haue been moued to compassion. When shee took
his heade betwixt her hands, prouring to lift it vp, and set
lan it open her lap, and seeing for al shust that there was no
movynge in him, shee ioyned her face vnto his pale and dead
cheare, and with sorrowfull words, shee said vnto him

Deare father, open thynge eyes, and behold me, open
them smete rather, and lyme hymonee for sorrowfull
deceit, if fortune be so favourable let me receyue somyn-
g to haue vnto me, the remenant life. O deare father this
is the laste daye of my life, and before I haue done with
the, that we maye haue a quietnes, and a quiete death
onely

the French Champions.

shame father; shaming that in somer tyme I my son forswore? O father, take some mesuffisance to reclame thee, wherof
me sat full adoun the grete stranell whiche hath been taken
in seeking this cub. Come now in deeth, and saye in the
sight of thy unhappy Daughter, and dye not without say-
ing her; and sayng her; that she may greate thee in dy-
ing with thy goome in this ympeccable daye of thy
youth. Rosana be gan again to wip his face
for that he was all to be bashed in blode, and with her
white handes she fel his eyes and mouth, and althea face
and he did all such lurd as she touched his breast, and put
her hand on the midle wound wher she held his hand
looked upon him wher he moued or no. And when she
dolt hym in her sense of seeing, she began again to come
playne, and crying out with most terrible exclamationes
she said. O myn blyssed father; how manie troublous great
trauells hath thy Daughter passid in seeking this water
in hys eyneth with her teares, and alwayes in paine cal-
ling for thee? O help me myn kyng in naming the names
wher she been answered with an Oche, which was unto
her great dolour and griefe; and wim that fortune hath
brought her to her thomart, to reioice her selfe in thy pre-
sence, the same fortune hath converted her wisedme into
griefe and dolour. Oh cruel and unconstant Queene of
Chaunor, hath Rosana deserved this, to bee most afflited
when she expected most joy. O Leagon if euer thou wylt
open thine eyes now open them, or let the glasseys of my
eyes be cloased internally. To all in me puruled
Herewith he perceiued his dim eyes to open, and his
senses now a little gathered together; and when he saw
himselfe in her armes, and understandyd her wordes, that
she was his Daughter whom hee had by the unfortunate
Accideyt of armes, hee faddeynge stroous against weakenes,
and at last recouering some strengthe, he cast his holding
armes about the midle whitenecke of the faire Rosana,

The second Part of

and they loged their faces the one with the other, distilling betwixt their many falls and bitter teares, in such sort that it would haue moued the native beasts whiche compassed: and with a feeble and weake voice, the wounded knyght said: son agd 16, 1300. To myn
yong daughter, unfortunat by my misfayaltes, let me recreate and comforte my selfe, in enioying this thy mouth, the time that I shall remaine alane, and before my selfe will both departe the company of thy dying bothe: so comfyt that I haue bene pittifesse unto thy mother and unkinde to the, in making the to travell with great sorow in finding me, and now thou hast found me. I must leue this alone in this somerfull place with my dead body pale and waner: god before my death sweete girlie giue me a thousand kisses: this onely delighte I crave, for the little time I haue to tarrie, and afterward I desire the to intombe my body in my mothers grane though it be farre in distance from this banckis Country.

Dum before Lope entreated she, wost thou request of me to giue thy body a bospitaler? with yis that it is requisite, to seeke somete to giue it unto us both, for I knowe my selfe can not continue longe, if the angry fates despite me of your living company: and without strenght to proceede any further in speches, he wist his face with great shewing and shynge, making within her selfe a terrible commotione, carreyng for the answere of her dying Father, who wist no less paine and anguish of death, said I am thy childe, hold happy shoulde I be, that thus imbracing one in the others armes, we might depart togeather when I should I be leffull in thy company, and account my selfe happy in my death: and heres upon I leane the to the knyght: daughter farwell, the Godz preserue the who take me to their mercies. And when he had said these wordes, he enclyned his necke vpon the face of Rosana and dyed.

when this so rowndill knyght sawe that the sonnes had got

the Scottish Charnborts.

got the victorie and departed from the body, she kissed his pale lippes and giuing herpe intablelous sighes, shes beganne a mernalous and heauy lamentation, calling her selfe unhappie and unforunate, and layde her selfe vpon the dead body, cursing her destines, so that it was lamentable to heare.

Many were fater myrthe, what troublous trouble haue I received for all my transluant paine, the which I haue suffered in seeking of thee, and nowe in the finding of thee the more is my griefe, for that I came to see thee dye? Oh most unhappis that I haue, where haue my myndes when I saw that satall dagger pearce thy tender brest? whereon was my thought? wherefore did I stand still, and did not with great lightnes make resistance against that terrible blow?

If my strength would not haue seruen me, yet at the least I would haue borne this compaines: you furious beastes that are hid in your dogs and haue caues, where are you now? why doe you not come and take pittie vpon my griefe in taking away my life? in oblyg to you the we your selues pittifull, for that I doe abhorr this dolorous life, yet she did not forget the promise that thee made him, which was to give his body burial in her mothers tembe. This was the occasion that she did somewhat cease her lamentation, and taking this for the more courage then her sorrowfull griefe would content unto, she put the dead boode vnder a mynchie pine Apple tree, and covered it with leaues of greene grasse, and herte lyng his armoz, vpon the boodes, in hope that the right therof would cause some aduenturous knight to approach her presence, that in kindestnes would assit her to intouche him: here we will leaue Rosana weeping over her fathers boode, and speake of the Nigromancer after his flight from the blacke Castle.

CHAP.

Flotsam and Jetsam

the new people, carried on per se, will not be able to fulfil its main aim.

A decorative horizontal border featuring a repeating pattern of stylized floral and foliate motifs. The design is composed of dark, ink-like strokes on a light, textured background. The pattern includes elements resembling stylized flowers, leaves, and acanthus-like shapes, arranged in a continuous, decorative frieze.

1. **प्राणी विजयी विजयी विजयी विजयी विजयी विजयी विजयी** ।

How the Magician found Leogers armour
hanging upon a nail, and by holding the
Quicconsul being bound to him and his bewitched

whome happned a terrible battle: also of the
desperate death of the Lady Anne, and how
the Maylour framed by her selfe, an
charred Sepulcher whiche he had brou-
ghte from the other fall of the world.

1953-2000 1962
2000-2000 DAD

the famous Nigromancer to pre-
dict the birth of a child, who
should be a great enchantress, now
the famous Nigromancer to pre-

12. *Die heilige Anna ist eine
ganz heilige Person, die sehr
gern die heilige Anna ist.*

the Spring Dragons, in which
tame Charthe breedeth many parts and plaines
of the earthe climets.

At last being wearis of his tourney, he put himself in the
thickest of the forest, wherin traueling w his whirling

the Scucl Shempholis.

Dragon, who unmercifully did him damage unto a myghtie
and great river, the which forced him to the empayre of the
purple Ocean, then hee alighted from his horse and so soore
frold himselfe and ther by levere, with his handes, with
drunke thereof, and washed his face: and as hee found him
selfe all alone, ther came unto him a quide within the water,
amongst all the world, life, and death hee was vanquished
by the shew of the righte for which hee did travel, and ther
gave him blisshes and he began to quise, not wylly the bo-
luse of his brest by the whole world, and the generation
of men did hee not see, is now hee with no good ym-

me, likewise he remembred the great travayle and trouall
that ever since hee endured; and what toyle travayling
he muste endure: In these fayreable cogitations spent
he the time a way till golden Hesperus did to helpe him
himselfe into his accustomed roding, and bearing his myght
in the orientall spacie, and did with draynes the darke
and fayre bosome night, which was the creasen that his
ynges did hee comynge; at that night hee passed away
with such sayrefull lamentation for his late disgraces,
that all the woodes and mountaines did resounde his loue
full exclamation, till last of Apollo, with his whistling
beames began to cover the ayre, hee did hidde his face

The which being seene by the Dragon, with a trice
he arose up, and intended to perpulke his iorney, but his
tungh in his eyes, towards the heauen, hee did discouer
hanging upon a high and myghtie pine apple tree therre
whereof hee did not finde the name, and
the which was hanging there, in remembrance of his death
by Roland as you heare in the last Chapter, in the armes
had alredy lost his bright colours, and beganne to erode
through the great abundance of raine, that fell there
after odd ymme con, gryng testiment of alred odd comi-
tate of all that, he founde shewes of the weare of the
myghtie armes, for with them come further circum-
stances of greater wonder, when hee deluypt the most myghty
armour.

This second Part of

armes, and armes of the field, and when he lacke
an helme to weare hee had the helmet, hee heard a voice
that callid him to come unto him knyght as to bide thys
Nayght, yesternayght hee gave the selfe to winne it by thy
champions shal be this daye, and so he did.

Then hee spide him to the place where hee, cast his head
on the armes of the field, and spide Rosana noblye shaked from a
bonyng sleep, and her right armes with a stronge incantation
armed after the mannes of the Amazonians, but for al that
he did not lacke to make himselfe alarminge biforne, and ha-
ving laced on his Burgonet, hee wente towardees the de-
monesse holding her lances in his hande, in-
witting her with his selfe.

¶ Rosana who saw his determinatione, did purpose to de-
fend her selfe, and defend her country.

¶ By her minniture shee did learned eloquence, so to
set outt the belike fayre and deuotours of these two gal-
lant knyghtes Rosana almyghty this was but a Feminin
nature, yett howe shee abode in her yonge adventures as
any knyghte in the world, except the Christian Champi-
one, and armes did assist her this daye.

¶ Wm. when hee comande to her blynde, the ballyant A-
mazonian when her enemys cam to blynde, shee wroke him
so terrible a blowe upon the visor of his helmet, that with
the fury therof shee made sparkles of fire to flye out with
great abundance, and wroke downe his head vnto his
body.

The Magician did returne unto her his salutation, and
wrote her face a blowe upon her helmet, that with the
great noise therof, hee made a bounde in al the mountains.
¶ And hee gan to terrifie them armes and fearefull
bonyng, for hee did not wante to be vpon his most extremite be-
climes the steeple to neither party, neyther giving the com-
mande for þe whyche hee did all the contrarie, the furi-
ous Magician and the fayre Amazonian fought on the o-
þer syde, butt they of þeir poyntes to wryte and ad-

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versarie to his ouerthow, striking at each other such terrible blowes, and with so great furie, that manie times it made either of them to loose feeling: and both seeing the great force of one another, were meruailously incensed with anger.

Then the valiant Lady threw her sheld at her backe, that with more force she might strike and hurt her enemy: and therewithall gane him so strong a blow vpon the borgonet, that he fell astonied to the earth without anie feeling.

But when the Magitian came againe to himselfe, he returned Rosana such a terrible blow, that if it had chanced to alight vpon her, it would haue clouen her head in pieces, but with great discretion she cleared her self therof in such sorte, that it was stroken in vaine, and with great lightnes she retyred, and stroke the Magitian so furiously, that she made him once againe to fall to the ground, al astonied, and there appeared at the visor of his helme the abundance of blood that issued out of his mouth: but presently he revived, and got vp in a trice, with so great anger, that the smoke which came from his mouth, seemed like a myll before his helme, so that almost it could not be seene.

Then this furious devill (blaspheming against his Gods) having his mortallsword verie fast in his hand, he ran towards his enemie, who (without anie feare of hys furie) went forth to receave him: and when they met together, they discharged their blowes at once, but it so fytuned, that the Amazonians blow did first fassen with so great strength, that for all the helmet of the Magitian, which was wrought of the strongest stæle, it was not sufficient to make defence, but with the rigorous force wherewith it was charged, it bended in such sorte that it brake all to pieces: and the Magitians head was so greevously wounded, that streames of blood ran downe his armour, and he was forced for want of strength to yeld to the mer-

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cie of the valiaunt Ladye, who quickly condescended to his requestes, vpon this condition, that hee woulde be a meane to conuaye her fathers dead body to an Iland nere adioyning to the borders of Armenia, and there to intomb it in her mothers grane, as shee promised when that his ayre of life fletched from his body.

The Magtione for safegarde of his life, presently agreed to perorme her desires, and protested to accomplish what soever she demanded.

Then presently by his arte he prepared his yron Chariot with his flying dragons in a readines, wherein they layd the murthered bodye of Leoger vpon a pillowe of myrtle-toe, and like wise placed themselves therein, wher in they were no sooner entred, with necessaries belonging to their trauelles, but they flew thowzoe the ayre more swifter then a whirl-wind, or a shippes sayling on the seas in a stoumpe tempest.

The wonders that he performed by the way, be so many and miraculous, that I want an Oratours eloquence to describe them, and a Poets skil to expresse them.

But to bee shorte, when Rosana was desirous to eate, and that her hunger increased: by his charmes he would procure birdes (of their owne accordes) to fall out of the skyes, and yeild themselves unto their pleasures, with all things necessary to suffice their wantes.

Thus was Rosana with her fathers dead body, caried thjough the ayre by Magicke arte, ouer hilles and dales, mountaines and valleys, wooddes and forrestes, townes and Citties, and thjough many both wonderfull and strange places and countries.

And at the last, they arrived neare unto the confines of Armenia, beeing the place of their long desired rest: But when they approached neare unto the Queene of Armenias grone, they descended from their inchaunted Chariot, and bore Leogers body to his burying place, the which they found (since Rosanas departure) ouergrownne with mosse
and

the seuen Champions.

and withered brambles: yet for all that they opened the Sepulcher, and layd his bodie (yet freshly bleeding) vpon his Ladies consuming carcase: which beeing done, the Magitian couered againe the graue with earth, and laid thereon greene turves, which made it seeme as though it never had beene opened.

All the time that the Magitian was performinge the ceremonious Funerall, Rosana watered the earth wyth her teares, never withdrawinge her eyes from looking vpon the Graue: and when it was finished, shes fell into this most sorrowfull and distresfull lamentation following.

Oh cruell Destinies (said she) sith your rigours haue bereaued me of both my Parents, & left me to the world a comfortlesse Daphane, receauue the sacrifice of my chasttie, in payment of your vengeance: and let my blood here shed vpon this Graue, shewe the singlenesse of my heart. And with the like solemnite may all their hearts be broken in pieces, that seeke the downfall and dishonor of Ladies.

As she was uttering these and suchlike sorrowes, shes tooke forth a naked sword, which she had readie for the same effect, and put the pommell to the ground, and cast her breast vpon the poynt. The which shes did with such furious violence and such exceeding hast, that the Magitian although he was there present could not succour her, nor prevent her from committing on her selfe so bloody a fact.

This sodaine mischaunce so amazed him, and so grieved his soule, that his heart (for a time) would not consent that his tung should speake one word to expresse hys passion.

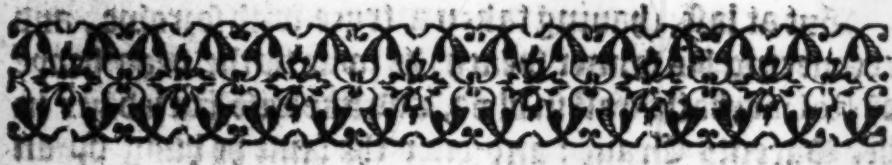
But at last, (having taken a truce with sorrowe, and recovering his former speach) he tooke vp the dead bodie of Rosana, bathed all in blood, and likewise buried her in her Parents Graue: and ouer the same he hung vp an

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Epitaph that did declare the occasion of all their deathes.

This being done to expresse the sorowes of his heart
for the desperat death of such a Magnaminious Ladie, and
the rather to exempt himselfe from the company of all hu-
mans creatures : he erected ouer the graue (by magicke
arte) a very stately Tombe, the which was in this order
framed. First there was fixed fourre pillows, every one of
a very fine Rubie : vpon the which was placed a Sepul-
cher of Cristall : Within the sepulcher there seemed to be
two faire Ladycs, the one hauing her brest peirced tho-
rowe with a sword, and the other with a Crowne of golde
vpon her head and so leane of body that she seemed to pine
away : and vpon the sepulcher there lay a knight all a-
long with his face looking vp to the heauens, and armed
with a coarsle of fine Steele, of a russet enamelling : vi-
nder the sepulcher there was spread abroad a great carpet
of golde, and vpon it two pillows of the same, and vpon them
lay an olde sheapheard with his Shep-hooke lying at his
fete : his eyes were shut, and out of them distilled manye
pearled tearess : at every pillow thers was a gentlewoma
without any remembraunce, the one of them seemed to be
murthered, and the other rauished.

And neare vnto the sepulcher there lay a terrible great
beast, headed like a Lyon: his brest and body like a Wolfe,
and his tayle like a scorpion, which seemed to spitte con-
tinually flamas of fire : the sepulcher was compassed about
with a wall of yron, with fourre gates for to enter in ther-
at : the gates were after the manner and culour of fine
Diamonds, and directly ouer the top of the chescast gate,
stood a marble pillow whereon hung a table written with
red letters : the contentes whereof were as followeth.



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So long shall breath vpon this brittle earth,
The framer of this stately Monument,
Till that three children of a wondrous birth,
Out of the Northerne climate shall be sent.
They shall obscure his name as fates agree:
And by his fall, the fiendes shall tamed bee.

This Monument being no sooner framed by the assistance of Plutos legions, and maintained by their devillish powers, but the Pigrontancer enticed himselfe in the walles, where he consoled him selfe with carpes and wal king spirits, that continually fed vpon his blood, and left their damnable seale sticking vnto his left side, as a sure token and witness that he had given both his soule and body to their governments after the date of his mortall life was finished.

In which inchaunted sepulcher we will leaue him for a time conferring with his damnable mates, and returne to the christian knyghtes, where we left them travelling towardes Babylon, to place the Ding againe in his King dome.



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CHAP. XIII.

How the seauen Champions of Christendome restored the Babylonian King vnto the Kingdome: and after how honourably they were receiued at Rome, vvhile Saint George fell in loue with the Emperours Daughter, being a professed Nunne. Of the mischefe that ensued thereby, and of the desperate ende of yong Lucius Prince of Rome.

 The valiant Christian Champions having as you heard in the Chapter going before, perfourmed the Aduenture of the inchaunted monument, accompanied the Babylonian King home to his kingdom of Assiria, as they had all verie solemnly and faithfully promised to him.

But when they appoached the Confines of Babylon, and made no question of peacefull and princely entertainement, there was neither signe of peace, nor likelihood of toysall or frendly welcome: for all the Countrey raged with intestine warre, sone severall Competitors unitly stryuing for what to the King properly and of right belonged.

The vnnaturall causers and stirrers vp to thys blood-

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the seuen Champions.

devouring contouersie, were the fourt Noblemen, vnto whom the King vnadvisedly committed the gouernment of his Realme, when hee went in the tragicall purſue of his faire daughter, after his dreameing illiſſon that caused him ſo cruelly to ſeeke her death. And the breaking out into this hurly burly, grew firſt to head in this maner following.

Two yeres after the Kings departure, theſe Deputies gouerned the publike ſtate in great peace, and with puer-
dent poltie, til after no tidings of the King could be heard notwithstanding ſo manie messengerſ as were in every
quarter of the world ſent to enquire of him: and then did Ambition kindle in all their hears, each ſtriving to wrell
into his hand the ſole poſſeſſion of the Babylonian King-
dome.

To this end did they all make ſeverall frends: for this had they contended in manie fights, and now laſtly they intended to ſet all their hopes vpon this maine chaunce of warre, intending to fight all till th̄e fell, and one remai-
ned victor over the reſt, whose head ſhould bee beautiſed with a crobne.

But of traitors and treaſon the end is ſodaine & shame-
full: for no ſooner had Haint George (placing himſelfe
betweene the Battellis) in a breſte Oration ſhewed y ad-
uentures of the King, and he himſelfe to the people diſco-
uered his reverend face, but they all ſhouted for ioye, and
haled the Uſurpers preſently to death, and reiſtalled in
his ancient dignitie, their true, lawfull and long looke for
King.

The King being thus reſtored married Fidela for her
ſaihfulnes: and after the nuptiall feaſts, the Champs-
ions (at the earnest requeſt of Haint Anthonic) departed
towards Italy: where in Rome the Emperor ſpared no
cost honorably and moſt ſumptuously to entertaine thofe
neuer daunted Knights, the famous Wonders of Chy-
rendome.

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At that time of the yere when the Summers Queen had beautified the Earth with interchaungeable ornaments, Saint George (in compaie of the Emperour) with the rest of the Champions chanced to walke along by the side of the River Tyber, and to delight themselves with the pleasurable meades, and beauteous prospect of the Countrey.

Before they had walked halfe a myle from the Cittie, they approached an ancient Punnerie, which was right faire and of a stately building, and likewise encompassed about with chissall streames and grene medowes, furnished with all manner of beauteous trees, and fragrant flowers.

This Punnerie was consecrated to Diana the Queene of Chastitie, and none were suffered to liue therein, but such chast Ladies and Virgins as had vowed themselves to a single life, and to keepe their Virginities for ever unspotted.

In this place the Emperours onely Daughter liued a professed Punner, and exempted her selfe from all compaie, except it were the fellowship of chast and Religious Virgins.

This vertuous Lucina (for so was shee called) having intelligence before by the oversieers of the Punnerie, how that the Emperour her Father with manie other Knights were comming to visite their religious Habitation, against their approach shee attyred her selfe in a gowne of white saten, all layd ouer with gold lace, also having her golden lockes of haire somewhat laid forth: and vpon her head was knit a garland of swarte smelling flowers, which made her seeme celestiall and of a divine creation.

Her beautie was so excellent, that it might haue quailed the heart of Cupide, and her brauerie exceeded the Paphian Queens. No man coulde Circes with al her cunning frame so much beautie in ane creature, as was vpon her face;

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face that never could the flatteryng Syrenes moe beguyl the travellers, then did her bright countenaunce enchant the English Champion, so; at his first entrance into the Punnerie, he was so ravished with her sight, that he was not able to withdrawe his eyes from her beauty, but stoopeigag upon her Rose rounoured chekes, like one bewitched with Me-dusas shadoues: but to bee shorte, her beauty fauored so Angellicall, and the burning flams of loue so stoked his heart, that he must either enjoy her companye or glorie ende to his life by some vntimely meanes.

Saint George beeing wounded thus with the darts of loue, dissembleid his griefe and not revealed it to any one, but departed with the Emperour back againe to the Cittie, leaving his heart behinde him cloased in the Sunye Monastery with his louely Lucina.

All that ensuing night he could not enjoy the benifit of sleepe, but did contemplate vpon the diuine beautye of his Lady, and fraughted his minde with a thousand severall cogitations how he might attaine to her loue, beeing a chaste virgin and a professed Nun.

In this manner spent hee a way the night, and no sooner appereed the mornings brightnesse in at his chamber window, but he arose from his restlesse bed, and attyzed hym selfe in watchet veluet, to signifie his true loue, and wondred all alone vnto the Monastery wher he revealed his deepe affection vnto his Ladye, who was as farrre from granting to his requestes, as heaven is from earth, or the deppest seas from the highest Elements: so she protested while life remainede within her bodye, never to yeild her loue in the way of mariage to anye one, but to remaine a pure virgin and one of Dianas traine.

No other resolution could Sa. George get of the chaste Nun, which caused him to departe in great discontent, intending to scke by some other meanes to obtaine her loue, so comming to the rest of the Christian Champions,

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he revealed to them the truth of all things that had hap-
pened, who in this maner counsailed him, that he should
provide a multitude of armed knyghtes, every one bea-
ring in thair handes a sword ready drawen, and to enter
the Monastery at such a time as she little mistrusted, and
first with faire promises and flattering speeches, to entice
her to loue, then if she perlded not, to fill her eares with
cruell threatnungs, protesting that if she wyl not graunt
to require his loue with like affection, he woulde not leaue
standing one ston of that Monastery vpon an other,
and likewise to make her a bloudy offering vppre to
Diana.

This policy liked wel Saint George, though he in-
fended not to prosecute such cruelty: so the next morning
by break of day he went vnto the nunnery in company of
no other but the christian champions armed in bright ar-
mour with thair glistering swordes ready drawen, the
whiche they caried vnder thair side cloakes to prevent sus-
pition.

But when they came to the Monastery, and had ente-
red into the chamber of Lucina (whom they found knie-
ling vpon the bare ground at her ceremonious orasons)
Saint George first proffered kindnes by faire promises,
and afterward made knowne his vnmercisfull pretended
cruelty, and therewithall shaking their bright swordes
against her vertuous brest, they protested (though contra-
ry to their mindes) that except he woulde yeale unto Saint
George her unconquered loue, they woulde bathe their
weapone in her deare st bloud.

At which wordes the distressed Virgin, being ouer-
charged with feare, sunke downe presently to the ground,
and lay so a time in a dead agony, but in the ende, re-
covering her selfe, she lifted vp her angelicall face, shrow-
ded vnder a cloude of pale seruile, and in this maner de-
clared her minde.

Most renowned, and well approued knyghte said she;
it

the seuen Champions.

It is as difficult to me, to climbe uppe to the highest toppe
of heauen, as to perswade my minde to yeld to the ful-
filling of your requestts.

The pure and chast Goddesse Diana that sittes nowe
crownde amongst the golden starres in heauen, will re-
venge my perited promise if I yeld to your desires, for
I have long since deepe lyly bolved to spende my daies in
this religioun house, in the honoure of her diety, and not to
yelde the flower of my virginity to any one, which bolve
I will not infringe for all the Maiesy of Roome: you
know byaue champions, that in time the watery droppes
will mollify the hardest Diamond, and time may weede
out this deepe roote and imprellion from my heart.

Therefore I request of you by the honour of true knight-
hood, and by the loues you beare unto your native coun-
tryes, to graunt me the liberty of seauen daies, that I
may at full consider with my heart, before I give an an-
swere to your demandds, and to the intent that I may
make some publike sacrifice as well to appease the wrath
which the chast Goddesse Diana may conceave against
me, as to satisfie mine owne soule, for not fulfilling my
bolve.

These wordes being no sooner ended, but the champi-
ons incontinently without any more delay joyfully con-
sented, and moreouer profered themselves to bee all pre-
sent at the same sacrifice, and so departed from the Mona-
stery with exceeding great comfort.

The champions being gone, Lucina called togither all
the rest of the founs, and declared to them the whole dis-
course of her assaument, where after amongst this religi-
ous company, with the help of some other of their appoy-
ned friends, they deuised a most strange sacrifice, which
hath since been the occasion that so many inhumaine and
bloudy sacrifices hath bin committed.

The next morning after syxe daies were finished, no
sooner did bright Phœbus shew his golde beames abroad,

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but the grommes began to prepare all things in readines
for the sacrifice: for directly before the doore of the Maner-
Cary, they byzed curring workmen to ered a scaffold, all
very richly couered with cloth of golde, and vpon the scaf-
fold (about the middle therof) was placed a faire table co-
uerted also with a Carpet of cloth of golde, and vpon it a
chasingdish of coales burning: all this beeing set in good
order, the Emperour with the Christian Champions, and
many other Roman knyghts being present to beholde the
cerimonious sacrifice, whi little mistruing the dolefull
tragedie that after hapned.

The assemblie beeing silent, there was straightwyses
heard a swete and harmonious sound of Clarions and
Trumpets and somwhat other kind of instruments: these
entered first vpon the scaffold, and next unto them were
bydight swanne Mannes, all adorneed with fine white
Wools, more softe in felling then Arabian silke, with huges
and mighte craggid hoxnes boundid about with garlands
of flowers: after them followed a certayne number of
Spannes attyzed in blacke vesture, singing their accus-
omed songes in the honouer of Diana: after them followed
an auncient Matrone drawne in a Chariot by fourre com-
ly virgins, bringing in her handes the Image of Diana:
and on either side of her two auncient Spannes of great
estimation, each of them bearing in their handes rich ves-
sels of golde full of most precious and swerte wines: then
after all this came the beautifull Lucina apparelled with
a rich Robe of estate, beeing of a great and inestimable
value.

Thus ceremoniously they ascended the scaffold, where
the Matrone placed the Image of Diana behinde the cha-
singdish of coales that was there burning: the rest of the
Spannes continued still singing their songes and drinking
of the precious wines that was brought in the golden
vessell: this being done, they all at once brought lame the
meats of the same by cutting their thonges, whose blouds
they

the seuen Champions.

ther sprinkled round about the scaffold, and opened their bowelles and burned their inward partes in the chassing dish of coales.

Thus with this slaughter, they made sacrifice unto the Queene of Chastitie : at the sight whereof was present, the surfetting Lover Saint George, with the other sixt Christian Knights armed all in bright armes, and were all verye attente to this that I here haue tolde you.

The sacrifice ended, this Lucina commaunded silence to be made, vnd when all the company were still, she rayled by her selfe upon her selfe, and with a heauie voyce distilling many salte teares : she said.

O most excellent and chaste Diana, in whose blessed bosome we undeffiled Virgins doe recreate our selues : unto thy deuine excellency doe I now commende this my last sacrifice, craming record of all the Gods, that I haue done my best to continue a spotles maiden of thy most beautiful traine.

Oh heavens shall I consent to deliuer my Virginitie willingly to him whose soule desires to haue the vse of it, or shall I my selfe commit my vter ruine and sorowfull destruction, the which procedeth onely by the meanes of my beautye, the which woulde it had bee neas blacke as the nighty rauens, or like to the fawny tan ned Monkes in the furthest mountaines of India.

O sacred Diana, thou blessed Queene of chastitie, is it possible that thou doest consent that a Virgin descended from so royall a race as I am, should procure to spotte the worthines of her predecessors, by yeilding her Virgins hono: to the conquest of loue without respecting my beautye, or regarding my chaste vowe I haue made unto thy dety?

Well seeing it is so that I must needes violate my selfe against all humane nature, I beseech thee to receiu the solemnite of this my death, which I offer vp in sacrifice to thy deuine excellency, for I am here constrained with

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mine own trembling hand to cut off the nourishing bran-
ches of these my dayes : So this I weare before the Ma-
iestie of heauen, that I had rather offer vp my soule into
the fletche and sacred yosome of Diana, than to yeld the
cattle of my chassellie, to the conquest of ane Knight in
the world.

And now to thee I speake thou valiant Knight of Eng-
land, behold here I yeld unto thy handes my luelesse bo-
die, to use according to thy will and pleasure, requesting
onely this thing at thy hand, that as thou louedst mee ly-
ving, thou wylt loue me dead, and like a mercifull Cham-
pion suffer me to receive a princely Funerall.

And last of all, to thee vniue Diana do I speake, accept
of this my bleeding scule, that with so much blood is offe-
red unto thee.

So in finishing this sorowfull speach she drew out a
faire and bright shining swerd, which she had hidden se-
cretly vnder her gowne, and setting the hylt agaynst the
Scattold (little leake soz of her Father and those ywers
present) she sovainly threw her selfe vpon the poynct of
that swerd, in such a furious maner, that it rued her
bloudie heart in sunder, and so rendred her soule to the tu-
nion of her, unto whom she offered her bloudie and ruch-
full sacrifice.

What shall I haue declare the lamentable sorowes
and pittifull lamentation that was there made by her fa-
ther and other Roman Knights that were present at this
unhappy mischance : so great it was, that the walles of
the Monasterie echoed, and their pittifull mythes ascen-
ded to the heauens.

But none was more grieved in mind than the afflicted
English Champion, who (like a man distraught of sense)
in great furie rushed amongst the people, throwing them
downe on euerie side, till he ascended vpon the scattold : &
approaching the dead boode of Lucina, that tooke her vp in
his armes, and with a sorowfull and passionate voyce he
said.

the seuen Champions.

SAID. O my beloved joy, and late my only hearts delight,
is this the sacrifice wherin (through thy desperatenes)
thou hast deceived me, who loued thee more than my selfe;
is this the respite that thou requirest for seauen dayes,
wherin thou hast concluded thy owne death and my viter
confusion?

OH noble Lucina, and my beloued Ladie, if this were
thy intent, why didst not thou first sacrifice mee thy Ser-
uant and Iesus, wholly subiecte unto thy deuine beautie?
Woe be unto mee, and woe bee unto my unhappy enter-
prise; for by it is she lost, who was made souerigne La-
die of my heart.

OH Diana, accursed by this chaunce, because thou hast
consented to so bloodie a tragedie, by the eternall powers
of heauen, that never more thou shalt be worshipped, but
in euerie Countrey where the English Champion com-
meth, Lucina in thy stead shall be adored. For evermore
will he seek to diminish thy name, and blot it from the gol-
roll of heaven, yea and viterly extinguish it in eternitie;
so that there shall never more memorie remaine of thee,
for this thy bloodie Tyrannie, in suffering so lamentable
a sacrifice.

So soone had he delinred these speaches, but incensed
with furie he drew out his sword, and parsed the image of
Diana in two peeces, protesting to ruinare the Monasterie,
within whose wallis the devise of this bloodie Sacri-
fice was concluded.

The sorrowfull and extreame grewe of the Romane Em-
perour was geden for the murther of his Daughter, that
he fell to the earth in a senselesse sound, and was carrie-
ed halfe dead with greefe by some of his knights home to
his Wallace, where he remained speechles by the space of
thirtie dayes.

The Emperour had a sonne, as valiant in armes as
anie borne Italiane except Sainct Anthonic. This young
Prince whose name was Lucius, seeing his sisters timeles
death

The second Part of

death and by what meane it was committed, he present-
ly inteneded with a crewne of a hundred armed knyghtes,
whiche continually attended vpon his person, to assaile the
discontented Champions, and by force of armes to re-
venge his fifters death.

His resolution so incouraged the Romaine knyghtes,
but especially the Emperors sonnes, that betwixt these two
companie s began as terrible a battle as euer was fought
by any knyghts, the scaresnes of their blowes so exceeded
the one the other, that they did rebounde ec-
choes, and they yeelded a terrible noyse in the great
woods.

His battell did continue betwixt them both sharp and
fierre for the space of two houres, by which time the valo
of the encounred Champions so preuailed, that most of the
Romaine knyghts were discomfited and slaine, some had
their handes spared from their shoulders, some had their
armes and legs hopped off, and some lay brantles hul-
ting in their owne blouds, in which encounter many a
Romaine Ladie lost her husband, many a widoowe was
bereft of her sonne, and many a childe was left father-
les to the great sorrow of the whole country.

But when the valiant young Prince of Roome sawe
his knyghtes discomfited, and hee lefte alone to with-
stand so many noblie Champions, he presently set spurs to
his horse, and leu from them like to a heape of dust sozed
by a whirlewinde.

Other to beth the Champions would not perhaſt account
they to no glorie to their names to triumph in the over-
thoſe of a knyghtynge, but remained still by the ſeaſt
folle where they buried the ſacrificed Virgin, vnder a
marble ſtone cloſe by the monaſterie wall. The which be-
ing done to their contentments, Saint George ingraved
the ſcavall upon the ſame ſtone with the point of his
dame, whom was in this hinde following.

THE END OF THE CHAMPION OF THE CHURCH

the seuen Champions.

Under this marble stone interred doth lye
Luckles Lucina, of beautie bright:
Who to maintaine her spotles chastitie
Against the assailement of an English Knight,
Upon a blade her tender breast she cast:
A bloodie offering to Diana chaste.

So when he had written this Epitaph, the Christian
Champions mounted upon their swift fante steedes, &
had adieu to the unhappy Confines of Italy, hoping
to finde better fortune in other Countries. In which tra-
uell we will leave them for a time, and speake of the
Prince of Rome: who after the discomfiture of the Ro-
mans Knights, fled in such hast from the furies of the war-
like Champions. After which, hee like a starued Lion
trauersed along by the Riuere of Tybris, filling all places
with his melancholy passions, vntill such time as hee en-
tered into a thicke groue, wherein he purposed to rest hys
wearie limbes, and lament his misfortunes. After he had
in this solitarie place vntaced his Helme, and haried it
scornfully against the ground, the infernal Furies began
to visite him, and looking his brest with motions of fie-
rie revenge. In the end he cast vp his wretched eyes vnto
SAHO

The second Part of

heauen, and said. Oh you fatal torches of the elements, why are you not clad in meurturefull abiliments, to cloake my wandring steps in eternall darkness? Shall I be made a scorne in Rome for my cowardise? or shall I returne and accompanie my Romane frends in death? whose bloudes methinkes I see sprinkled about the fields of Italy. ~~He~~ thinks I heare their bleeding soules fill each corner of the earth with my base flight: therefore will I not line to be a fearefull coward, but dye couragiously by mine owne hands, wherby those accursed Champions shall not obtaine the conquest of my death, nor triumph in my fall. This being said, he dyed out his dagger, and rpued hys heart in sunder. The newes of whose desperate death, after it was bured to his Fathers eates, he interred hys bodie with his sister Lucinae, and erected over them a stately Chappell, wherein the Nunnes and reverentious Monkes during all their liues sung Virges for his Chil- drens soules.

After this the Emperour made proclamation through all his Dominions, that if anie Knight were so hardie as to assault in pursuite after the English Champion, by force of armes bring him backe, and deliuer his head unto the Emperour, he should not onely be held in great estimation through the Land, but receive the government of the Empire after his decease. Which rich prouer to encouraged the mindes of divers aduenterous Knights, that they went from sundry Provinces in the pursuite of Saint George, but their attempts were all in vaine.

the seuen Champions.

CHAP. XIII.

Of the triumphs, tilts and tournaments that were solemnly held in Constantinople by the Grecian Emperour, and of the honorable aduentures that wer there atchiued by the chrisitian champions, with other strange accidents that happeped.

In the Easterne Parts of the world the same and valiant deedes of the Champions of Christendome was noysed, with their honourable victories, herogallates, and seates of armes, naming them the myrmours of nobilitie, and the types of bright honour. All Kings & Princes (to whose ears the report of their valors was boured) desired much to behold their noble personages. But when the Emperour of Grecia (keeping then his Court in the Cittie of Constantinople) heard of their mightie and valiant deedes, he thirsted after their sights, and his minde could never bee satisfied with content, vntill such time as he had devised a meane to trayne them unto his Court; not onely in that he might enjoy the benefit of their compaines, but to haue his Court honoured with the presence of such renowned Knights; wherefore in this manner it was accomplished.

The second Part of

The Emperour dispatched Messengers into divers parts of the world, giving them in charge to publish thorough out every Countrey and Province as they went, of an honourable Tournament that should bee holden in the Cittie of Constantinople within sixe months following: thereby to accomplish his intent, and to bring the Christian Champions (whose companie hee so desired) vnto hys Court.

This charge of the Greek Emperor (as he command-
ed) was speedily performed, with such diligence, that
in a short time it came to the ears of the Christian knights,
as they travelled betwixt the Provinces of Asia and Afri-
ca. Who at the time appointed came in great pompe and
majestic to Constantinople, to furnish forth the honorable
Triumphs.

the seuen Champions.

So when the day of furnaunce was come, all the Ladies and damsels put themselves in places to beholde the setting, and attired themselves in the greatest brauere that they could devise, and the great court full of peoply whiche came thither for to see the triumphant tournaunce.

What should I say here of the Emperours Daughter, the faire Alcida, who was of so great beauty that she seemed more liker a divine substance then an earthly creature, and late glistering in her rich ornameents amongst the other Ladies like unto Phoebe in the Christall firmament, and was noted of all beholders to be the fairest Princes that ever mortall eye beheld: so when the Emperour was seated vpon his imperiall throna vnder a tent of grene velvet, the Knights began to enter into the lists, and he which was the first that entered was the King of Arabia, mounted vpon a very faire and well adorned courser, he was arm'd with blacke armour, all to bespotted full of silver brobs, and brought with him fifty Knights all apparelled with the same livery, and thus with great Patesy he rode rounde about the place, making great obidence vnto all the Ladies and damsels and quicke, and quicke draynes against the other hir frenched Pagan Knight, who was Lord of Siria, and arm'd with armour of a Lyons colour, accompanied with a hundred Knights all apparelled in veler of the same blayre, and passed rounde about the place, shewing vnto the Ladies great friendship and courtesie as the other did.

Whiche being done, he beheld the King of Arabia, tarryng to receave him at the Just: and the trumpets began to sound, giving hit vnto understand that they must prepare themselves ready to the encounter: whereat these Knights were nothing unwilling but spurred their courser with great fury and closed together with couragious valure.

The second Part of

The king of Arabia most strongly made his encounter, and stroke the Pagan without missing upon the brest; but the Pagan at the next race, being heate with furie strok him so surely with his lance, in such sort that he heaved him out of his saddle, and he fell presently to the ground, after which the Pagan Knight rode up & downe with great pride and gladnes.

The Arabian king being thus ouerthowne, there entered into the listes the king of Argier armed with no other furniture but with siluer mals and a bessplate of haight steele before his brest, his pompe and pride exceded all the knyghtes that were then present, but yet to small purpose his pride and arrogancy serued, for at the first encounter hee was ouerthowne to the ground: In like sorte did this Pagan use fiftene other knyghtes of fifteene severall yronnes to the great wonder and amazement of the Emperour and all the assembly.

During all these valiant encounters Saint George with the other christian champions stood a farre off vpon a high gallery beholding them, intending not as yet to be scene in the tilt.

But now this valiant Pagan after he had rode some faire courses up and downe the place, and seeing none exceding the tilt-yarde, he thought to heare all the fame and honour alway for that day.

But at that same instant there entred the noble minded Prince of Fesse, being for courage the onely pride of his countrey hee was a merueilous well proportioned knyght and was armed all in white armour, wrought with excellent knottes of golde, and hee brought in his company a hundred knyghtes, all attired in white satthen, and riding about the place he shewed his obedience unto the Emperour and to all the Ladys, and therupon the trumpets began to sound.

At the noyse whereof, the two knyghtes spurred their courseres and made their encounter so strong and with such

the seuen Champions.

such great furie that the proude Pagan was cast to the grounde and so departed the listes with greate dishonour.

Straight way entered the braue King of Silicia , who was arm'd in a glistering corslet of very fine Steele , and was mounted byon a mighty and rich courser , & brought in his company , two hundred knyghtes , all apparelled with rich cloth of gold , having every one a several instrument of musike in their hands , sounding thereon most heauenly melody .

And after the Silician king had made his accustomed compasse and courtesie in that place , hee lock'd downe his benor and put hymselfe in readinesse to iust.

So when the signe was gien by the chiese harrolde at armes , they spurrd their horses and made their encounters so gallant , that at the first race they made their lances shiver in the aire and the picces thercof to scatter abroade , like aspen leaues in a whirlewinde .

At the second course the young Prince of Fesse was caried ouer his horse buttooke , and the saddle with him betwixt his legs , which was a great griesse vnto the Empour , and all the company that did see him , soz that he was wel beloued of them al , and held for a knyght of great estimation .

The Silician king grewe proude at the Prince of Fesses overthrow , and was so incouraged and so furious that in a small time he left not a knyght remaining on horsebacke in their saddles that durst attempt to iust with hym , but currie one of what Countrey and Nation soverayned the attempt : so that there was no question among eyther Nobles or the multitude but that vnto hym the vndoubted honour of the victory in triumph would bee attributed .

And being in this arrogant pride , hee heard a great noise in the maner of a tumult drawing neare , which was the occasion that he stode still , and to expect some

strange

The second Part of

strange accident; and looking about what it should bee, he beheld Saint George entering the lists, who was ar- med with his rich and strong armour, all of purple, full of golden stakcs, and before him roade the champions of France, Italy, Spaine and Scotland, al on stately cour- scrs, bearing in their handes foure silken streamers of foure severall colours.

And the champion of Wales followed him, carrying his shield whereon was portraited a golden Lyon in a sa- ble field, and the champion of Ireland likewise carried his speare beynge of knotty ash, strongly bound about with plates of steele, all whiche he wed the hignesse of his dis- cent, in that somany braue knyghtes attenede vpon him.

So when Saint George had passed by the royll seate whereon the Emperour sat, invested in whose company was many knyghtes of great authority, he rode along by the other side, whereas Alcida the Emperours faire Daughter sat amoungst many gallant Ladies and faire damselfys richly apparetied with bessures of gold, to whom he vated his bonnet shewing the the countesse of a knyght and so passed by Alcida, at the sight of this noble champi- on could not restraine her selfe, but that with a high and bold voice she said vnto the Emperour.

Most mighty Emperour and my royll father (saide she) this is the knyght in whose power and strength, all christendome doth put their fortunes, and this is he whom the whole world admires for chivalrie.

Saint George althoough he heard very well what the lonely Princesse had said, passed on, and dissembled as though he had heard nothing, and so when he came before the face of his curius adversary, hee tooke his shield and his speare and prepared hymselfe in readynesse to iust, and so being both prouided, the trumpets beganne to sounde, whereat with great fury these two warlike knyghts met togither, and neather of them misseid their blowes at their

the seuen Champions.

encouter: but yet by reason that Saint George had a desire to extoll his fame, and to make his name resounde thorough the worlde, he strok the giant such a mighty blisse upon his brest, that he presently ouerthrew him to the ground, and so with great stafe and maiestie he passed along without any shew of disdaine, wherat the people gaue a great shoute that it resounded like an echo in the ayre: and in this maner said.

The great and mighty boaster is ouerthown, and his furious strength hath little availeth him. After this many Princesse proued their aduentures against this English champion, and every knight that were of any estimation tuked with him.

But with great ease he ouercame them al in lese then the space of two houres: so at such time as bright Phœbus began to make an end of his long iourney, and the day to draw to an ende, there appeared to enter into the listes the braue and mighty giant, being brother to the Scilician king with a mighty great speare in his hande, whose glimmering point of Steele glistered through al the court, he brought with him but onely one squire, attired in siluer vntale bringing in his hand another launce.

So this furious giant without any care of cartes or unto the Imperour or any of his knyghts there present entered the plate, the which being done, the squire that brought his other speare, went unto the English champion and saide. Sir Knight (quoth he) yonder braue and valiant giant, my Lord and Maister doth send unto thee this warlike speare, and therewithall he wil lethe thee to defend thy self to the vttermost of thy power & strength, so he hath vowed before sunset, to be either Lord of thy fortunes or a vassell to thy prouesse and likewise saith that he doth not only defie thee in the tourment, but also challenges thee to mortall battaile.

This brauning message caused Saint George to smile, and bze d in his brest a new desire of honour, and so returne,

The second Part of

ned him this answere, friend to thy waies and tell the giant that sent that, that I doe accept his demaunde, al- though it doth grieue my very soule to heare his arrogant defiance to the great disturbance of this roiall company, and in the presence of so mighty an Empsonr, but seeing his stomache is gorged with so much pride, tell him that George of Englaud is ready to make his defensur, and also that shottly he shall repente him by my pledge of knighthood.

In saying these wordes he take the speare fro the squire, and deliuered him his gauntlet from his hand to carry to his master, and so put himselfe to the standing, awaighting for the encounter.

At that time he was very neare the place where the Emperour sat, who heard the answere which the English knight made unto the squire, and was much displeased that the giant in such sorte should desie S. George without any occasion.

But it was no time as then to speake but to kepe silence, and to pray vnto his Gods to take away his great pride and arrogancie.

All this tyme the two warriours (mounted vpon their stedes) carried the signe to bee made by the trumpets, which being given, they set forward their courser, with their speares in their restes, with so great fury and desire the one to unhorse the other, that they both fayled in their encounter.

The giant who was very strong and proude, when he sawe that he had missed his intent, he returned against Saint George, carrying his speare vpon his shoulder, and comming neare vnto him, vpon a sodaine before he could cleare himself, he stroke him such a mighty blowe vpon his corset, that his stasse broke in pieces, by reason of the finenesse of his armur, and mado the English Knight to double his body backwardes vpon his horse crupper.

But

the seuen Champions.

But when he sawe the great villany that the giante
set against him, his anger increased very much and so ta-
king his speare in the same sorte, he went towards the gi-
ant and saide.

Thou furious and proude beast, thou scoze of nature
and enemy of true knighthood, thinkest thou for to entrap
me treacherously, and to goze me at vnawares like to a
sausage boare: Now as I am a christian knight, if my
knotty speare haue god successe I will revenge me of thy
cruelty.

And in saying this, hee stroke him so furiously on the
brest, that his speare passed through the giants body, and
appeared soorth at his backe, whereby hee fell presently
downe dead to the ground, and yelded his life to the con-
quest of the fatall sisters.

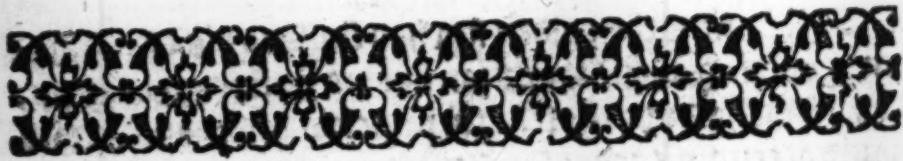
All that were present were very much amazed there-
at, and wondred greatly at the strength and force of saint
George, accompting him the fortunatest knight that e-
uer weelded launce, and the very patterne of true nobi-
lity.

At this time the golden sun had finished his course, ha-
ving nothing aboue the orizon but his glistering beames,
wherby the Judges of the furniments, commanded with
sound of trumpets that the Justes should cease, and make
an end of the day.

So the Emperour descended from his imperial thron
into the tilting place, with all his knyghtes and Gentle-
men at armes, for to receave the noble champion of En-
gland, and desired him that he woulde go with them into
his pallace, there to receave al honors due unto a knight
of such desart: to the which he could not make any denial,
but most unwillingly consented, after this the Emperors
daughter (in company of many courtly virgins) likewise
descended their places, wher Alcida bellowed upon saint
George hit gloue, the which he wore for her sauour many
a day after in his burgonet.

The second Part of

The six other christian champions, although they merited no honour by this tourment, because they did not try their aduentures therein, yet obtained they such good liking among the Grecian Ladies, that every one had his mistresse, and in their presence they long time spent their chiese delights: nowe must we leane the champions in the Emperours course for a time forsoaking in pleasures and returne to Saint Georges sons trauelling the world, to seeke out aduentures.



the seuen Champions.



CHAP. XV.

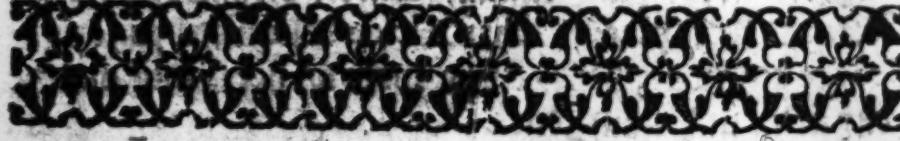
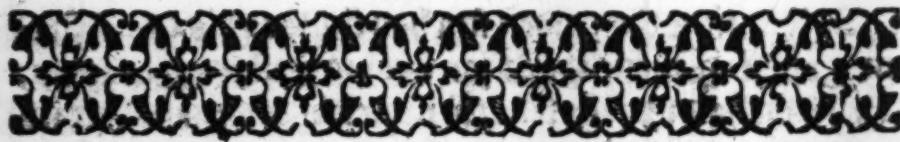
How a Knight with two heads tormented a beautifull Maiden, that had betroathed her selfe to the Emperors Sonne of Constantynople: and how she was rescued by Saint Georges Sonnes, and after how they were brought by a strange Aduenture into the companie of the Christian Champions, with other things that hapned in the same trauells.

His renowned Emperour (within whose Court þ Christian champions made their abodes) of late yeares had a Sonne named Pollemus, in all vertues and knighthye demeanours, equall with anie living. This young þrice in the spryng time of his youth, through the pearcing dartes of blinde Cupide, fell in loue with a Maiden of a meane parentage but in beautie and other þerulous gifts of Nature most excellent.

This Dulcippa (so was she called) being bus daugh-
ter to a Countrey Gentleman, was restrained from the
Emperours Court, and denied the sight of her beloued
Pollemus, and he so bidden to set his affection so low, upon

The second Part of

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receiving honour by this tourment, because they did not try
their adventures therein, yet obtained they such good like-
ing among the Grecian Ladies, that every one had his
mistresse, and in their presence they long time staid their
chiefe delights: nowe must we leaue the champions in
the Emperours courfe for a time surfeiting in pleasures
and returne to Saint Georges sons trauelling the world,
to seeke out adventures.



the seuen Champions.



CHAP. XV.

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This Dulcippa (so so was she called) being but daugh-
ter to a Countrey Gentleman, was restrained from the
Emperours Court, and denied the sight of her beloved
Pollemus, and he so forbidden to set his affection so low vpon

The second Part of

the displeasure of the Emperour his Father: for he being the Sonne of so mighty a Potentate, and she the daughter of so meane a Gentleman, was thought to be a match vafit and disagreeable to the lawes of the Countrey: and therefore they could not be suffered to manifest their loues as they would, but were constrained by stealth to enioye each others most beloued and heartely desired compa-
nies.

So vpon a time these two Lovers concluded to meeete together in a dally betwixt two hills, in distance from the Emperours Court some thre miles, wheras they might in secret (deuoyd of all suspition) unite and tye both the y^e hearts in one knot of true loue, and to prevent the deter-
mination of their Parentes, that so unkindlye sought to
crosse them.

But when the appoynted day drew on, Dulcippa arose from her restlesse bed, and attires her self in rich and cost-
ly apparell, as though she had been going to performe her
nuptiall ceremonies.

In this manner entred she the Walley, at such time as the Sunne began to appeare out of his golden Horizon, & to shew him selfe vpon the face of the Earth, glistering with his bright beames vpon the siluer flowing Rivers. Likewise the calmie westerne windes did verie sweetly blow vpon the greene leaues, and made a delicate harmo-
nie: at such time as the fairest Dulcippa (accompayned with high thoughts) appoched the place of their appoint-
ed meeting.

But when shee found not Prince Pollimus present,
she determined to spend y^e time away till he came in trim-
ming of her golden haire, and decking her delicate bodie,
and such like delightful plesures for her contentment and
recreation.

So sitting downe vpon a greene banke vnder the shad-
dow of a myrtle tre^e, she pulled a golden cawle from her
head, wherein her haire was wrapped, letting it fall and
dispearse

the seuen Champions.

Dispearste it selfe all abroade her backe, and taking out from her christalline breast an yuoyie comb, she began to kemb her haire, her hands and fingers seeming to be of white alabaster, her face staining the beautie of roses and lylies mixid together, and the rest of her bodie comparable to Hyrens, vpon whose loue and beaufie Mahomer did some time doate.

But now marke (gentle Reader) how frowning Fortune crossed her desiros, and charged her wished ioyes into vnderpected sorwes. For as she late in this deuine and angelicall likenes, there fortuned to come wandring by an inhumane tyrant, surnamed the Knight with 2. heads, who was a rauisher of virgins, an oppressor of infants, & an vtter enemie to vertuous Ladies, and strange traueling Knights.

This tyrant was bodied like unto a man, but covered all ouer with lockes of haire. Hee had two heads, two mouthes, and fourre eyes, but all as red as bloud. Which deformed creature presently ranne unto the Virgin, and caught her vp vnder his arme, and carried her away ouer the mountaines into another Countrey, where hee intended to torment her, as you shall heare moze at large hereafter.

But now returne we to Prince Pollemus, who at the time appointed like wise repaired to meeke his betroathed Louer: but comming to the place, he found nothing but a silken scarffe, the which Dulcippa had let fall through the fearfull frightening she tooke at the sight of the thre headed Knight.

No sooner found he the scarffe, but he was oppresed exceedingly with sorrow, fearing Dulcippa was murthered by some inhumane meanes, and had left her scarffe as a token that she infringed not her promise, but persoured it to the losse of her owne life. Wherefore taking it vp, & putting it next his heart, he breathd forth this woulfullamentation.

Vera

The second Part of

Here rest thou neere unto my bleeding heart, thou precious token and remembrance of my dearest Ladie, never to bee hence remoued, till such time as my eyes maye either behold her bodie, or my eares heare perfect newes of her untimely death, that I may in death consort wyth her.

Frowne you accursed Lampes of heauen, that gaue first light unto this fatall morning: for by your dismall light the pride of earthly women is dishonoured. Come, come, you wrathfull planets, descend the lucklesse Horizon, and rayne vpon my head eternal vengeance, oppresse my bodie with continuall miserie, as once you did the wofull King of Thebes: for by my slouthfull negligence and ouer-long tartance, this bloudie tragedie hath vsens committed.

Yet for her sake I bowe to frauell through the world, as farre as euer golden Phœbus lendes his light, filling each corner of the earth with clamours of her name, and making the Elements resound with Echoes of my lamentations.

In this resolution returned he home to the Emperour his Fathers pallace, dissembling his greefe in such manner, that none did suspect his discontented sorrowes, nor the strange accident that vnto beauteous Dulcippa had happened.

So vpon a day as he was imagining with himselfe, sifting the small comfort that he tooke in the Court, considering the want of her presence whom so much hee desired, he determined in great secret as soone as it was possible to depart the Court.

This determination he straight wares put in practise, and tooke out of the Emperours Armorie vericly an exceeding good corset, the which was all russet, and embossed with blacke, and embrothered round about with a gilded edge veric curiously and artificially graven and curveth.

the feuen Champions.

Also he tooke a shēlde of the same making, sauing that it was not grauen as the armour was, and commaunded a young Gentleman, that was Donne vnto an ancient Knight of Constantinople, of a good disposition and hardy that he shoulde keepe them safelē, and gaue him to vnder-stand of his determined pretence.

Although it did grēue this young man verie much, yet for all that seeing the great frēndship which hee vsed to-wardes him, in vtrring his secret vnto him before any o-ther, without replying to the contrarie, hee verie dili-gently tooke the armonr, and hidde it ; till hee founde a conuenient time to put it into a Shippē verie secret-ly.

So likewise he put into the same Shipp two of the best boates whiche the Emperour had, and soozthwith he gaue the Prince understanding, that all thinges were then in a readines, and in good order. Pollimus dissembling with the accustomed heauines hee vsed, withdrew himselfe into his Chamber, till such time as the darke night came.

Whiche when it was come he made himselfe readie with his apparell, and when all the people of the Court were at their rest, and in their deade sleepes, hee alone with his page, who was named Mercurio, departed vp-wards and went to the Sea side. His page did call the Mar-riners of the Shipp, who straight way brought vnto them their boates, into the which they entred and went straight aboord.

And being therin soz that the windē was verie faire, he commaunded to waigh their Anchors and to hoyle vp Sailes, and to commit themselves to the mercy of the waters: as he commannded all was done, and so in short time, they founde themselves ingulped in the mayne Oce-an, far from the sight of any land.

But when the Emperour his Father understood of his secret departure, the lamentation which hee made

The second Part of

was verie much: and he commannded his knyghts to goe unto the sea side, to know if there were anie shyp that departed that night. And when it was told them that there was a Barkethat hayled ancho: and hoystyd sayle, they understandyd straight way that the p:ince was gone awaie in her.

I cannot haere declare the great griefe and sorrowe whiche the Emperour felte in his wefull heart for the absence of his Sonne, which a long time he alwayes suspected and fearede.

But when the departure of Pollemus was knowne thorough all Constantinople, all sports and feasts ceased, and all the vassalls of the Country were ouercome with a generall sorrow.

So Pollemus sayled shrough the deepe seas thre dayes and thre nightes with a verie sayre and prosperous souerainite: and a greate tempest.

The fourth day in the euening, beeinge calme, and no wylnde at all, the Marriners went to take their restes, some on the poope, and some in the foreship, for to eale their wearied bodies.

The p:ince (who late vpon the poope of the shyp) aske: d his page for his Lute, the which straight way was giuen him: and when he had it in his hands, he playde and sung so swetely, that it seemed to be a most heauenly me: lodie, and being in this swet:te musike, he heard a verye lamentable crye, as it were of a woman: and leauing his delicate musike hee gaue a listening and attentive eare to hearken what this sorrowfull creature sayd, and by reason of the stilnes of the night, he might easly heare the boyce bitter these words.



the seuen Champions.

It will little profite thee thou cruell tyrant,
this thy bold hardinesse : for that I am beloued
of so worthie a Knight, as will vndoubtedly
revenge this thy tirannous crueltie pro-
fered mee.

Then he heard another voyce which seemed to answere.

Now I haue thee in my power, there is no
humane creature of power able enough to
deliuer or redeeme thee from the tormentes,
that (in my determination) I haue purposed
thou shalt indure.

¶ Polleimus could heare no more, by reason that the Bark
wherein they were passed by so swiftly : but he supposed
that it was his Ladie's voyce which he heard, and that she
was carried by force away. So (laying downe his Lute)
he begant to fall into a great thought, and was verie hea-
tie and sorrowfull, in that he knew not how to aduenture
for her retouerie.

Beeing in this cogitation, hee retourned to hys page
which was a sleepe, and strake him with his stote, and a-
waked him, saying : What didst not thou heare the great
lamentation which my Ladie Dulcippa made (as to mes
it seemed) beeing in a small Barke that is passed by, and
gone forwards along the seas. To the whiche his page
Mercutio aunswered nothing, for that hee was still in a
sound sleepe.

The second Part of

to whome the Prince called againe, saying : arise I say, bring sooth mine armour, call by the Martiners that they may launch their boate into the sea, for by the omnipotent Jupiter I sweare that I will not bee called the Sonne of my Father, if I doe suffer such violence to bee done against my loue, and not to procure with all my strength to revenge the same, Mercutio woulde haue replyed vnto him, but the furious countenance of the Prince would not giue him leauue, no, not once to looke vpon his face : so hee broughte sooth his armour and buckled it on.

In the meane time the Martiners had launched their boate into the sea, wherin he leaped with a hastie fury, and caried with him his page, and foure of the Martiners so to tolue the Barke, and he commauded them to take their way towards the other companie that passed by them.

So they labored all the night till such time as bright Phoebus with his glistering beames gave vnto them such light that they might discouer and see the other Barke, althoough somewhat a farre off.

So laboured they in great courage, till two partes of the day was spent, at which time they sawe come after them a Gallie which was governed with eyghtoares vp on a side, and it made so great way, that with a trice they were with them, and hee sawe that there were in her thre knyghtes in bright armour, to whome Polimius called with a loude voyce saying. Poste courteous knyghtes I request you to take me into your Gallie, that being in her I may the better accomplishe my de-

The knyghtes of the Gallie passed by the Prince without making returne of any aunswere, but rather shewed that they made but little account of him.

These

the seuen Champions.

These thre knyghtes were the sonnes of the English champion which departed from their father in his iourney towards Babylon, to set the King againe in his kyngdome.

But now to follow our history, the Prince of Constantinople seeing the litte accound they made of him, with the great anger and fary that he receaved, he tooke an oxe in one hand, and an other in the other hand, and with such strength he stroke the water, that he made the slothfull barke to ffe, and laboured so much with his oares, that with a frice they were equall with the gally.

So leauing the oares with a light leape he put himselfe in the gally with his helme on, and his shielf at his shouler, and being within he said.

Now shall you doe that by force, which before I vsing great courtesie you wouldest not yeld vnto.

This being said, one of that Georges sonnes tooke the incounter in hand, thinking it a blemish to the honor of knyghteode by multitudes to assaille him, so the two braves knyghtes without any aduantage the one of the other made their encounters so valiantly that it was a wonder to all the beholders.

The Prince of Constantinople stroake the English knight such a furious blow that he made him to decline his head to his brest, and forded him to recoile backwards throught the seppes, but he came quickly againe to himselfe and returned him so mighty a blow vpon his helme, that he made all his teeth to chaster in his head, which was pittifull to see.

Then beganne betwixt them a meruelous and well foughтен battle that al that beheld them greatly admird: with great policy and strength, they indured the bickeringe all that day, and when they sa in the darke and fernesous night came vpon them, they did procure with more courage and strength so to finish their battle.

The Prince of Constantinople, puffing and blewing like

The second Part of

like a bell lifting up his sword with both his handes and discharged it so strongly upon his enemy that perforce hee made him to fall to the ground and therewithal offered to pull his helmet from his head.

But when the English Knight sawe himselfe in that sort, he threwe his shielde from him, and very strongly caught the other about the necke and held him fast, so that betwixt them beganne a mighty and terrible wretting tumbling and wallowing up and downe the gally brea-
king their planks and oares that it was straunge to be-
holde.

At this time the night began to be very darke, wher-
eby they called for lightes, which presently were brought
them by the Marriners, in the meane time these knyghts
giv somewhat breath themselves, although it was not
much.

So when the lightes were brought, they returned to
their late contention with new force and strength.

O heauen said Pollimus, I cannot belaine to the con-
trary but that this is Mars the God of war that doth con-
tent in battle with me, and for the great enuy he beares
against me, he goeth about to dishonour me.

And with these wordes they thickned their blows with
great desperatenesse.

And althogh this last assault continued more then two
hourses, yet neither of them did faint, but at the last they
both together lift up their shieldes, and charged them to-
gether the one upon the other's helme with so great strength
that both of them fell downe vpon the hatches without
any remembrance.

The men that did holde vpon them, did belaine verily
that they were both dead, by reason of the abundance
of bloud which came soyt at their visage, but quickly
by it was perceaved that there was some hope of life in
them.

When presently there was an agreement made betwixt

the severall Champions.

the knyghtes of the gally and the Marriners of the barks
that they shold conioyne together and to trauell whither
fortune wold condic the in this order as you haue heard
carried they these two knyghtes without any remem-
brance.

But when the Prince of Constantinople came to him-
selfe with a loude voice he said, Oh God is it possible to be
true that I am overcome in this first encounter & assault
of my knyghthood.

Here I curse the day of my creation and the houre when
first I merited the name of a knyght, hence forth Ile bury
all my honours with disgrace, and spend the remenant of
my life in base cowardice, and in speaking these wordes
he cast his eie aside and beheld the English knyght as one
newly risen from a trance, who likewise breathed forth
these discontented speeces. Oh vnhappy son of S. George,
thou coward and of little valour, I know not howe thou
canst name thy selfe to be the son of the mightiest knyght
in the world, for that thou hast lost thy honour in this last
assault.

This being said, the two weary knyghts concluded a
peace betwixt them, and revealed each to the other their
names and living and wherefore they aduentured to tra-
uell, the which when it was known they sailed forwards
that way whereas the dolorous woman went, so in this
sort they travelled all the rest of the night that remained,
till such time as the day began to be cleare, and straight-
way they descried land, to which place with great hast
they rowed.

And comming a land they found no used way, but one
narrow path, the which they kept, wherein they had not
trauiled long, when that they met with a pore simple
country man, with a great hatchet in his hand, and he
was going so to cut some firewood from high and migh-
ty trees, of whom they demanded what country and
land it was.

This

The second Part of

This countrey (said hee) is called Armenia, but yet most curteous knyghtes you must pardon me, for that I doe request you to returne againe, and procede no farther if you doe esteeme of your lynes, for in going this way there is nothing to be had but death.

So that the Lord of this countrey is a furious monstre called the two headed knyght, and he is so furious in his tyrrany, that never any stranger as yet could escape out of his hand alial.

And for perte of his cruelty no longer then yester day he brought hither a Ladie prisoner, who at her first coming on shoure all to be whipt and beat her in such sorte that it would make the tyrrannous tyrant to relent and pitte her distresse, swearing that every day he would so torment her, till such time as her life and body did make their seperation. And when Pollimus the Prince of Constantinople was very astentive to the olde mans words, thinking the Ladie to be his Dalcippa after whom he so long travellled: the grieve he receaved at this report stroke such a ferroure to his hart that he fell into a soundy and was not able to go any further.

But Saint Georges sonnes who knew him to bee a knyght of much valour incouraged him, and protested by the honour of their knyghtheedes never to forsake his company, till they saw his Ladie delivred from her tormentes and he safelie conducted home into his owne countrey.

So trauelling with this resolution the night came on, and it was so darke, that they were constrained to seeke some place to take their relyes, and lapping themselves downe under a broad branched tree of Dake, they passed the night pondering in their minnes a thousand imaginations.

So when the morning was come and that the Diamond of heauen began to glister with his braunes upon the

the seuen Champions.

the mountaine topes, these martiall Knights were not slothful, but rose vpp and followed their iourneys.

After this they had not travailed scarce halfe a mile, when that they heards a pittifull lamentation of a woman, who by reason of her lowde shrikes her voice was very boarre, so they staid to heare from whence that lamentable noise shold come.

And presently a farre off, they behelde a high piller of stone, out of the which there came forth a spoute of faire and cleare water, and therat was bounde a woman all naked, her backe fastned to the piller, her armes backeward imbracing it, with her armes fast bounde behinde her.

Her skinne was so faire and white, that if it had not beene, that they heard her lamentation, they would haue iudged her to haue bene an image made artificially of alabaster toynd vnto the piller.

These warlike Knights laced on their helmets, and came vnto the place where she was, but when the prince of Constantinople saw her, he presently knew her to be his Lady and louely mischiese.

For by reason of the coldnesse of the darke night, and with her great lamentation and weepings, she was so ful of sorrow and affliction, that she could scarce speake.

Like wise the Prince hart so yerned at the sight of his unhappy Lady, that almost he could not looke vpon her for weeping.

But yet at last with a sorrowfull sigh he said, Oh cruel hands is it possible that there shold remaine in you somuch mischiese, that whereas there is such great beauty and fairenes, you shold haue such basenes and villany? shes doth more deserve to be loued and serued, than to bee in this sort so emill intreated.

This woefull Prince with much sorrow did behold her white skin and backe all to bespotted with her red blood, and taking a cloake from one of the marriners, he threwe

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it bypon her and couered her body, and stoke her in his
armes, whiles the other knyght untyed her.

This unhappy Lady never felte noyntynge what was
done unto her, till such tyme as shee was unbound from
those bandes and in the armes of her louer.

When geyng a terrible sigh she thought that she had
bene in the armes of the monstrosus two headed knyght
sryng, Oh Pollinus thou true betrothal husband wher
art thou now that thou comest not to succour me, and ther
withall released her quichebow.

This Prince hearing these woxys would haue answere
red her, but he was disturbed by hearing of a great noise
of a horse, which seemed to be in the woods amongst the
trees.

The rest of the knyghtes intehoing to see what it shold
bedest the Lady lying upon the graine grasse in the ke
ping of Prince Pollinus and the Sparreynes, and so saint
Georges sonnes went towards the place, wheras they
heard that rushing noise, and as they vigeantly loekt a
bout them they beheld the two headed monstre mounted
vpon a mighty and great paltry, who returned to see if
the Lady were alise for to torment her answere not.

But when he came to the piller and saw not the Lady,
with an iresful looke he cast his eyes, looking about him
every side, and at last he saw the three knyghtes, spinning
towards him with a reasonable and quiet pace, and beholde
the Lady was untyed from the piller wher he left her and
in the armes of another knyght making her sorowfull
complaint.

The two headed knyght seeing them in this order, with
great fury vpon his mighty horse he came towards them,
and when he was neare them, he stode, and did beholde
the princely proportions, and gentle dispositions of y knyghts
that without my leauue hath adventured to untye the Lady
from the piller wher I left her, wherefore you to offer uppe
your blouds in sacrifice vpon my knyghtyn, to whom one of

the

the seuen Champions.

the thre valiant brothers answered & said, we be knights of a strange countrey, that at the sorrowfull complaint of this Lady arrived in this place, and seeing her to be a faire and beautifull woman, and without any desert to be thus so euill intreated, it moueth vs to put our persons in ad- venture against them that will sicke farther to misuse her.

In the meane time that the knight was speaking these wordes, the deformed monster was beholding him very plesantly, knitting his browes with the great anger hee receaued in hearing his speeches, and with greate fury he spurred his monstrous beast, that he made him to giue so mighty a leape that he had almost fallen vpon the English knight: who with great lightnes did deliuer himselfe, and so drawing forth his sword he would haue stroken him, but the beast passed by with so great fury that he could not reach him.

Here began as terrible a battaile betwixt the two headed knight and saint Georges sonnes, as euer was fought by any knights, their mighty blowes seemed to rattle in the elements like to a terrible thunder, and their swords to strike sparkling fier, in such abundance as though it had bene from a smithes anuile.

During this conflict the English knights were so grievedly wounded, that all their bright armours were stained with a bloody gore and their helmets bruised with the terrible stroakes of the monsters fauchion, whereat they grew more enraged, and their strengthes beganne to increase in such sort that one of them stroake an ouerthwart blow with his trusty sword vpon his knee, and by reason that his armour was not very god he cut it cleane a sander, so that legge and all fell to the ground, and the two headed knight fell on the other side to the earth, and with great rozing he began to stamp and stare like a beast, and to blasphem against the heauens for this his sodaine mishap.

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The dther two brothers seeing this, presently cut off his two heards, whereby he was forced to yeld to the mercy of impertious death.

There was another knight that came with the mon-
ster, who when he sawe all that had passed, with great
seare returned the way from whence he came.

These victorious conquerours, when they sawe that with so great ease they were deliuered from the tyrantes cruelty, with lowde voices they saide, oh thou God whom we christians still doe worship, we doe give thee humble thankes, and doe acknowledge this our god successse and victory doth procede from thee.

Therefore we doe promise and vow before thy celesti-
all Maiestie, that once comming to our father and the o-
ther Christian champions, generally to erect a Shrine, and
consecrate it to thy blessed sonne, vnder whose banner we
euermore doe fight.

This being said, they departed with conquest to the
Prince of Constantinople, where they left him comfo-
ting of his distressed Lady.

So when they were altogether, they commanede the
marriners to prouide them somwhat to eate, for that they
had great neede therof, who presently prepared it, for
that continuall they boare their prouision about them: of
this banquet the Knights were very glad, and rejoyced
much at that which they had atchieued and commanede
that the Lady should be very well looked vnto and healed
of her harme receane.

So at the end of thre daies when the Princesse Lady
had recovered her health, they left the countrey of Arme-
nia and departed backe to the sea wheras they had left
their shippes lying at roads, and there tarried vntill their
comming.

Wherin they wers no sooner entered, but the Mar-
iners hysed sail, and tooke their way toward Constan-
tinople as the Knights commanede. The windes serued
them

the seuen Champions.

them so prosperously, that within a small time they arryued in Greece, and landed within two dayes tourney of the Courte: which laye then at Peru, a myle from Constantinople.

Being aland, the Prince Pollemus consulted with S. Georges thre Sons, what course were best to be taken for their proceeding to the Court. For saith he, unlesse I may with the Emperour my Fathers consent enioye my dearest Dulcippa, I wyll live unknowen in her compa-
nie, rather than delight in the heritage of ten such En-
pyses.

At last they concluded, that the Ladie should bee cou-
red in a blacke veyle for being knownen, and Pollemus in
black armes, and the other Knights all suitable shuld ride
together: which accordingly they did, and about tenne in
the morning entred the Pallace: where they found the
Emperour, the seuen Champions with manie other p-
laces in the great hall: to whom one of S. Georges Sons
thus spake.

Great Emperour and noble Knights, this Knight th: leadeþ the Lady hath long loued her, in their births there
is great diff. reuce, so that their Parents crosse their af-
fections: for him she hath indured much sorrow, for her he
will and hath suffred manie hazards. His comming thus
to your Court is to this end, to approoue her the onely de-
sertfull Ladie in the world, himselfe the faithfull Knight
against all Knights what souer: whiche with your Empe-
riall leaue, he my selfe and these two my associates will
maintains: desiring your Maiestie to giue iudgement as
we shall deserue.

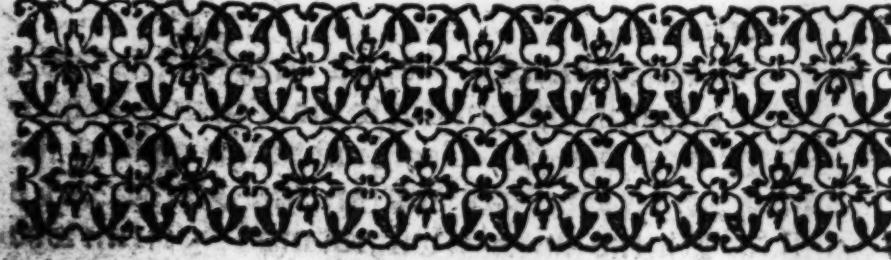
The Emperour condescended, and on the grēne before
the Pallace, thos fourre ouerþre w̄ more than fourre hun-
dred Knights: so that S. George and thre other of the
Champions entred the lyts, and ran thre violent courses
against the Blacke Knights, without mowing them: who
never suffered the poyncts of their speares to touch the ar-
mouſt

The second Part of the seuen Champions.

mour of the Champions. Which the Emperour perceiving, gesed them to be of acquaintance: wherefore gyuing iudgement that the Knight shold possesse his Lady, at his request they all discouered themselves.

To deseribe the delightfull comfort that the English Champion tooke in the presence of his Children, and the ioy that the Emperour received at the returne of hys lost Sonne, requires more arte and eloquence, than my tyred senses can afford. I am therefore here forced to conclude this Part, leaving the Flowers of Chivalrie in the Citie of Constantinople. Of whose following Aduentures I wilst large discourse hereafter: so that the gentle Reader (with a kinde looke and a smiling countenance) wyll curteously accept of this which is alreadie finished.

FINIS.



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